

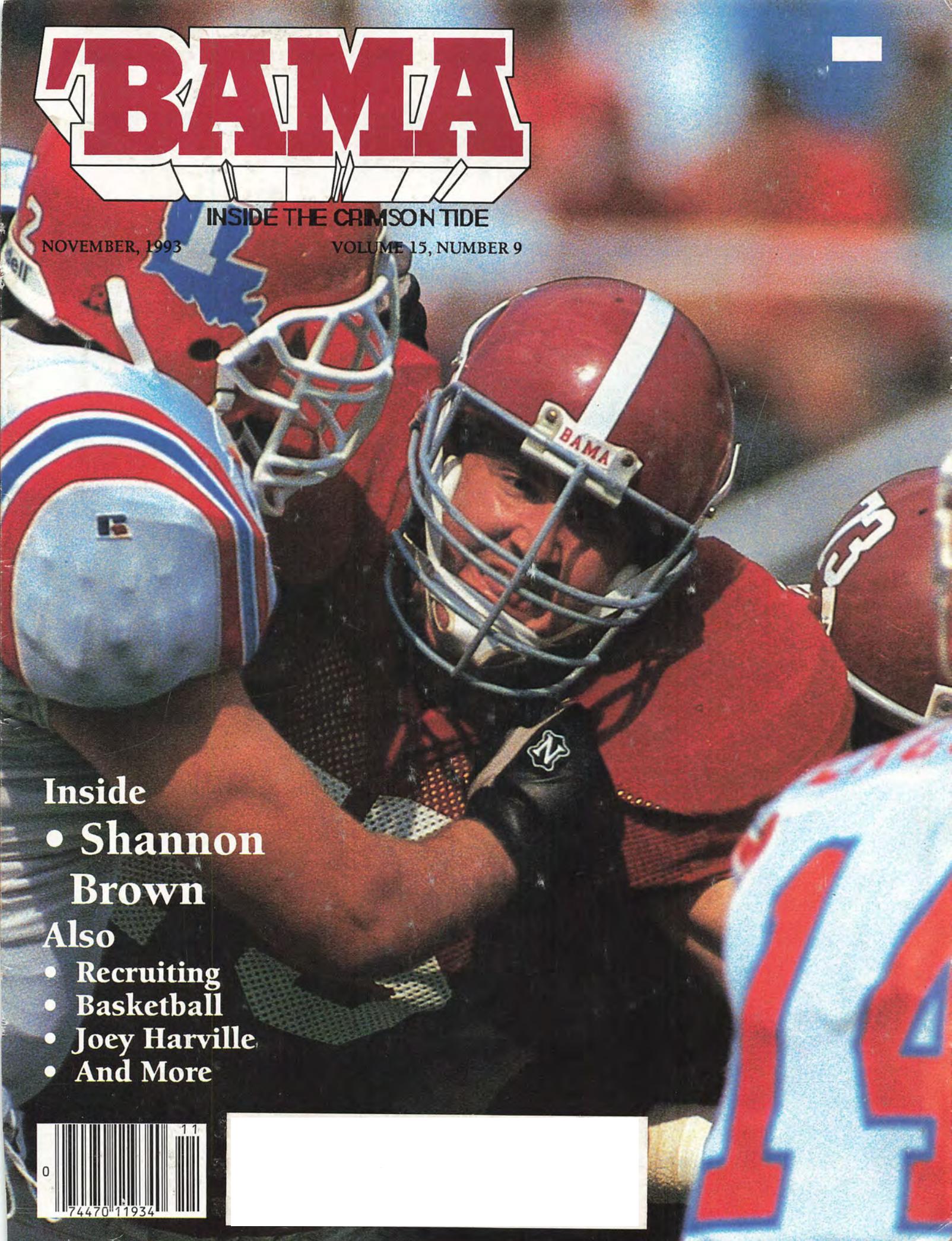
'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

NOVEMBER, 1993

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 9

Inside
• Shannon
Brown
Also
• Recruiting
• Basketball
• Joey Harville
• And More



"Championship Memories"

Officially Licensed University of Alabama
1992 National Championship Commemorative
Limited Edition Fine Art Print
by Douglas C. Hess



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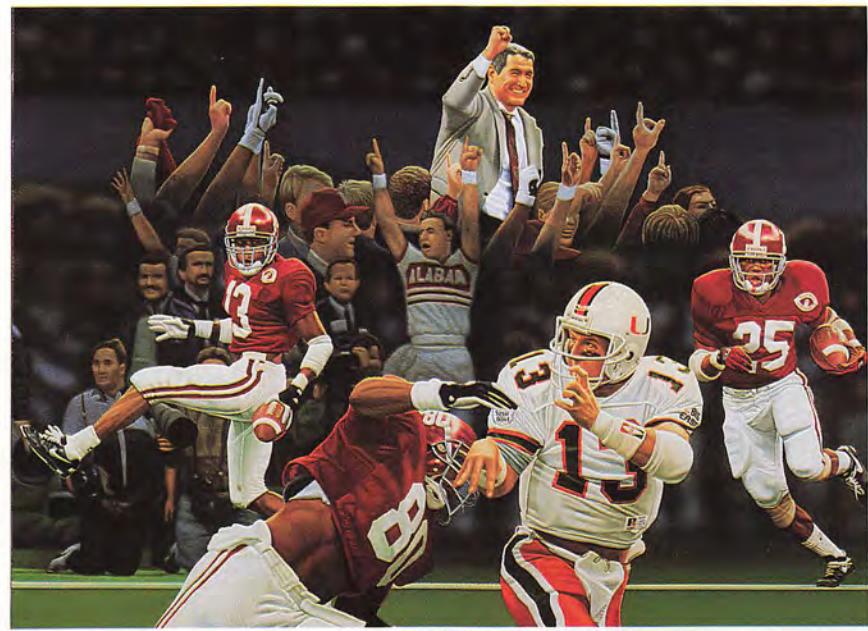
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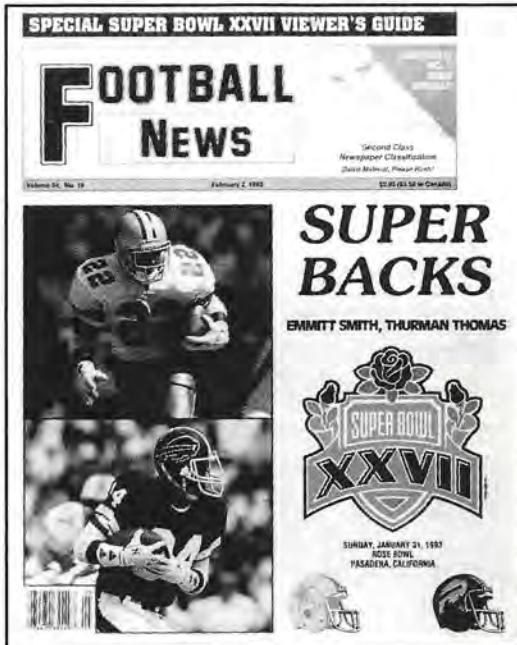
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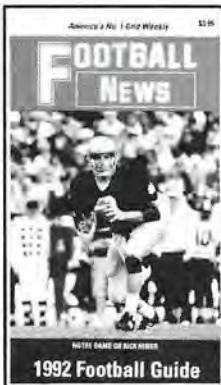
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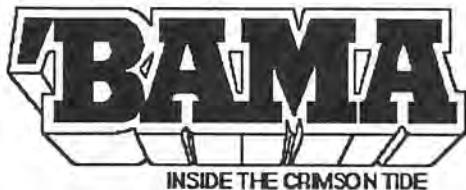
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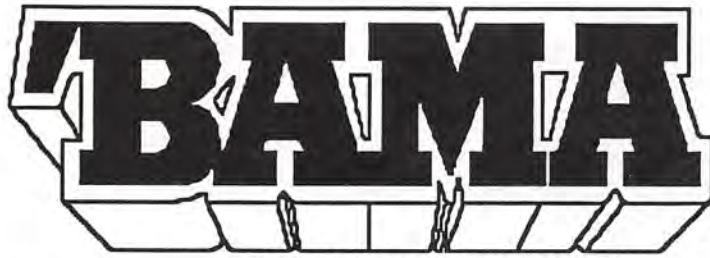
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Barry Fikes Photo



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Move To Guard Is Opportunity

Senior Dennis Deason was prepared to spend a lot of time on the bench backing up All-America candidate Tobie Sheils at center this year. However, troubles at the guard spots have given him an opportunity to not only play more, but also to start.

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Junior offensive lineman Joey Harville has had a few starting assignments in his Alabama career, but his primary value to the team is as backup to both starting offensive tackles. Although he doesn't usually start, he's definitely a first-teamer.

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Pitching Looks Like A Strong Point

At any level of baseball, the key ingredient is pitching. Alabama Head Coach Barry Shollenberger liked what he saw of Alabama's pitching staff as the Tide went through fall drills. The 1994 edition of the Crimson Tide hopes a blend of veterans and newcomers will mean improvement.

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BAMA SCORECARD

Pop Or Bear?

Mike Bynum, presumably the same Mike Bynum who is an Alabama alumnus and who has written several sports-related books including five regarding Alabama football, has reportedly authored a yet-to-be-published book entitled, "Pop Warner: Football's Greatest Teacher," in which it is alleged that Warner is college football's all-time winningest coach.

In 1981 the late Alabama Coach Paul Bryant won his 315th game, one more than the previously listed all-time record set by Amos Alonzo Stagg and two more than had been credited to Glenn "Pop" Warner. Eventually Bryant would run his victory total to 323, and that has been the acknowledged record for major college coaches.

An NCAA representative said for many years Iowa State has listed Warner as its head football coach from 1895 to 1900, a time when Iowa State won 22 games. That would mean Warner won 335 games.

There is a reasonable explanation why the victories have never been recognized by the NCAA. The years Warner was listed as the coach at Iowa State, he was actually serving as the coach at either Georgia, Cornell or Carlisle. Iowa State records list Warner as a co-coach most of the years.

An NCAA committee will sort it all out. Members of the committee include a few big-timers, Roger Valdiserri of Notre Dame, Bud Thalman of Penn State and David Housel of Auburn. The others come from the Missouri Valley Conference, the Big East Conference, Boston University, Howard, Miami of Ohio, Central Missouri, Cal-Poly Pomona and Delaware Valley College.

The bottom line is that regardless of the numbers, Bryant's place in college football history is secure.

Anniversary

Trivia question: What former Alabama football captain is celebrating the 25th anniversary of his team's national college football championship this year?

Answer: Dave Brungard was a star halfback for Coach Woody Hayes at Ohio State in 1968 when the Buckeyes won the national championship. But Brungard, now an insurance executive in Birmingham, didn't see eye-to-eye with Hayes and transferred to Alabama. After sitting out 1969 he had only one year of eligibility remaining, but that 1970 season was enough to convince his teammates he was worthy of being elected captain.

Closed Circuit

Although there has been no official announcement as of this writing, Alabama is certain to have closed circuit television coverage of this year's Alabama-Auburn football game. The game, being played in Auburn November 20, cannot be on network, cable or even pay-per-view telecast because Auburn is on probation for cheating again, and the penalty includes a sanction against telecasts of Auburn football games. That, of

course, penalizes the innocent as well as the guilty, and so the NCAA has one exception. A closed circuit telecast can be made to a single site on the campus of the innocent school.

Alabama is in the process of making final arrangements to have the closed circuit telecast in Bryant-Denny Stadium. The company that handles the Sony JumboTron screen has examined the stadium and determined it will use a crane to hang the screen into the stadium.

Florida had a similar telecast to Florida Field when the Gators went to Auburn. Approximately 8,000 showed up for the Florida telecast. While Florida's loss was not popular in Gainesville, the telecast received excellent reviews.

There are only a couple of restrictions in the telecast. One is that the guilty party, i.e. Auburn University, can't make a dime off the deal. The other is that the telecast may be made available to anyone, not just students, faculty and staff. Admission cost is expected to be about \$10, half the cost of a ticket.

Big Winners

Prior to the start of this season, the NCAA released its findings on the winningest college football teams of recent decades. The research was based on winning percentage, not victories, or Alabama would have been number one in both the 1960s and 1970s. Just based on winning percentage, Alabama was first in the 1960s with an 86.5 winning percentage, second to Oklahoma in the 1970s, and fourth through the first three years of the 1990s. No other team was ranked among the five winningest teams in more than two decades, and only Nebraska and Oklahoma, both ranked among the winningest teams in the 1970s and 1980s, made the list in two decades.

There were surprises. Bowling Green had the fifth best winning percentage in the 1960s, Tennessee State fourth best in the 1970s, Brigham Young third best in the 1980s.

But the biggest surprise may be that the team with the best winning percentage in the history of college football does not appear among the top five winning teams in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, or the first three years of the 1990s. That team is Notre Dame.

What Does A Tie Mean?

When Alabama's winning streak of 28 consecutive games ended not with a loss, but with a tie to Tennessee, the first thought for many was what the 17-17 verdict did to Alabama's chances for repeating as national champion.

There is some interesting precedent for a team with a tie winning some version of the national title. The best memory of a team with a tie taking the title is 1965, when Alabama repeated despite a tie to Tennessee and a loss to Georgia. A wild day of bowl games made Alabama's climb to the top possible. The worst memory for most Alabama fans of a team with a tie winning the champion-

ship came the next year, when Alabama was trying for a third straight title, went undefeated (and untied), and finished third to co-champions Notre Dame and Michigan State, who had tied 10-10 during the season.

The last time two teams split the national championship, in 1990, both teams had a tie, Georgia Tech (11-0-1) and Colorado (11-1-1). In addition to Alabama and Colorado, Iowa has won a version of the national championship with a loss and a tie, the Hawkeyes taking a crown in 1958 with a 7-1-1 mark.

Eleven teams have had a tie and won some version of the national championship, such as Ohio State in 1961 taking the Football Writers Association crown with an 8-0-1 record while 11-0 Alabama won the more recognized Associated Press and United Press International championships. Other teams with a tie on their national championship records are Pittsburgh in 1937, Notre Dame in 1946, Ole Miss in 1960 and Nebraska in 1970.

November Action

Although most of the attention is still on football and even though basketball competition begins with some exhibition games, there are other sports at Alabama with November activity.

The Alabama volleyball team will be on the road at Auburn November 5 and at Florida November 7, then finish out the regular season with home matches against South Carolina November 19 and Georgia November 20. The SEC Championships will be in Birmingham November 25-27.

Alabama swimming and diving teams host LSU November 6, and then the women have meets at Houston November 19, Texas November 20 and host Florida November 26.

Fall golf competition concludes in November with both men and women playing in South Carolina November 12-14. The men will be in the Golf World Intercollegiate in Hilton Head and the women at the Cudone Invitational at Myrtle Beach.

Tennis schedules are subject to quick and unannounced changes, but the schedule shows the women in the International Tennis Association Regional Championships at Georgia Tech November 5-7 and the men at the Region III Championships in Knoxville November 4-7.

The Alabama cross country teams will take part in the NCAA District III championships in Greenville, South Carolina, November 13. That is the qualifying meet for the NCAA Championships, to be held November 22 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The women are expected to qualify for the national championships, but the men are not.

Top Gun

Who is the best women's basketball shooting guard in the nation? According to the 1993-94 *NCAA Basketball Preview* magazine the distinction belongs to Alabama junior Niesa Johnson.

She heads the list of the nation's top ten guards in the publication. The magazine gives Alabama a preseason ranking of 22nd.

Reunion

One of the projects Dottie Kelso was working on when she died tragically at the age of 31 this fall was a reunion of former Alabama women's basketball players, managers, trainers and coaches. The 31-year-old Bama assistant coach's wish will come true. Tide Head Coach Rick Moody said that all former players and staffers in Alabama women's basketball history have been invited to return to Tuscaloosa when the Tide plays LSU on Sunday, January 30, in Coleman Coliseum. Kelso will also be honored at that game.

The Price Of Success

Very few people would not want to have Jason Bohn's regret. On November 1, Bohn was to receive his second of 20 \$50,000 payments, his reward for having made a hole in one in a contest at University Golf Course a year ago. Bohn, at the time a sophomore walk-on member of the Alabama golf team, won the million dollar prize and immediately lost his amateur status and chance to play collegiate golf.

Bohn is still in school at Alabama and working towards his degree. He is managing his money well, having "blown" part of it on a utility sports vehicle, loaned some to his brother who is in dental school, and starting a fund to promote junior golf in his hometown in Pennsylvania.

But, he said, "You could almost say I regret hitting it. I always had a dream of playing collegiate golf, and I'd worked pretty hard to get to this point. I do miss not being a part of the team anymore, not being able to see how far I could have gone."

Good Starts

Alabama men's golf and tennis stars, whose primary play will come in the spring, got off to very good starts in fall competition.

Marten Olander, who ended his junior season of golf in 1993 by being named the Hogan Award winner, recognizing him as the nation's top golfer/scholar, is one of ten college golfers selected as a finalist by the Intercollegiate Golf and Tennis Association for the Dave Williams Award, also based on both athletic and academic accomplishments. Olander was not only an honorable mention All-America as a junior, he is also a dean's list student and member of the honorary, Omicron Delta Kappa. And he got his senior athletic year off on a great start as he eagled the final hole to lead Alabama to the team title in the University of Tennessee Tournament of Champions.

Cecil Brandon, who is ranked 34th in the nation among college tennis players, had never competed in college on clay courts until the opening leg of the Collegiate Grand Slam this fall. The initial tournament of the year for the nation's top-ranked individuals, the SkyTel National Collegiate in Jackson, Mississippi, was Brandon upset the nation's 11th-ranked player and make it to the Round of 16.

New Facility For Women

Alabama expects to add to its athletics facil-

Alabama Basketball Schedules

Men

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 16	*Team Bulgaria	7:30
Nov. 22	*Spirit Express	7:30
Dec. 1	Chattanooga	7:30
Dec. 4	@ Washington State	9:00
Dec. 9	Northwestern State	7:30
Dec. 18	Florida A&M	1:30
Dec. 21	@ Southern Miss	7:00
	Low Country Classic @ Charleston, S.C.	
Dec. 28	Delaware State	5:30
Dec. 29	Charleston or Penn State	TBA
Jan. 5	@ South Carolina	6:30
Jan. 8	Arkansas	1:30
Jan. 12	Vanderbilt	7:30
Jan. 15	@ Ole Miss (JP)	12:30
Jan. 17	Tennessee-Martin	7:30
Jan. 19	@ LSU	7:00
Jan. 22	Florida	1:30
Jan. 25	@ Auburn (ESPN)	8:40
Jan. 29	Mississippi State (JP)	3:00
Feb. 2	@ Kentucky (JP)	7:00
Feb. 5	@ Georgia (JP)	1:00
Feb. 8	LSU (ESPN)	8:40
Feb. 14	Mercer	7:30
Feb. 16	@ Arkansas (JP)	7:00
Feb. 19	Tennessee	1:30
Feb. 23	Tennessee State	7:30
Feb. 26	Ole Miss	1:30
Mar. 2	@ Mississippi State	7:00
Mar. 5	Auburn	1:30
Mar. 10	SEC Tournament	
Mar. 13	@ Memphis	

*Exhibition game
All times central

Women

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 17	*Team Bulgaria	7:00
Nov. 24	*Athletes In Action Cyclone Classic @ Iowa State	7:00
Nov. 26	Eastern Washington	8:00
Nov. 27	Iowa State or Troy State	TBA
	Shoney's Classic @ Tuscaloosa	
Dec. 3	Coppin State	6:00
Dec. 4	Grambling or Tennessee St	TBA
Dec. 8	@ East Tennessee	6:30
Dec. 11	Louisiana Tech	7:00
Dec. 29	Central Florida Classic	
Dec. 31	@ Orlando (Central Florida, North Carolina, FSU, Kentucky, East Carolina, Radford, Richmond)	TBA
Jan. 5	Georgia	7:00
Jan. 7	@ Illinois	7:30
Jan. 9	@ Vanderbilt	2:00
Jan. 12	@ Troy State	7:00
Jan. 16	Florida	2:00
Jan. 18	Mercer	7:00
Jan. 22	@ South Carolina	1:00
Jan. 26	South Alabama	7:00
Jan. 30	LSU	2:00
Feb. 2	@ Arkansas	7:00
Feb. 5	@ Tennessee	6:00
Feb. 13	Kentucky	1:30
Feb. 16	Auburn	7:00
Feb. 19	Mississippi State	11 a.m.
Feb. 23	Alabama State	5:00
Feb. 26	@ Ole Miss	7:00
Feb. 28	Troy State	7:00
Mar. 4	SEC Tournament	
Mar. 7	@ Chattanooga	

*Exhibition game
All times central

ities with a new building for some women's athletics events. The 3,000-seat arena would be primarily for volleyball, but would also be used by the gymnastics team and, in some cases, by women's basketball. It will also house the offices of some women's athletics coaches and officials. Ground-breaking on the facility is perhaps two years away.

And She Can Run, Too

It's never a surprise when a past or present Alabama track performer wins one of the races held in the Tuscaloosa area. And so it was this year when former Bama cross country stars German Beltran and Heather Shutt-Warner finished first overall in the men's and women's divisions, respectively, at the Kentuck Festival 5K Run. However, there was something of a surprise winner in the women's 25-29 age group as former Tide tennis All-America Titia Wilmink was the winner with a very strong time of 21:45.

Administrator Added

Athletics Director Hootie Ingram didn't have to search long or far to find the woman he wanted to take up the duties vacated by

Associate Athletics Director Sarah Patterson. Patterson, head coach of Bama's very successful gymnastics team for the past 16, wanted to relinquish some of her administrative duties after eight years of wearing two hats.

Ingram hired Debbie Warren as assistant athletics director to work with all sports except football, men's basketball and gymnastics. The position was added as part of the athletics department's efforts to strengthen its position on gender equity.

Warren just had to move about a block from her former offices in the Alabama Aquatic Center to Coleman Coliseum. She has been serving as director of aquatic sports. Ironically, in her new post she will work under Associate Athletics Director Don Gambril, for many years the highly-regarded Bama swimming and diving coach.

She is an alumna (bachelor's and master's degrees) of Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio, where she formerly served as head coach for women's swimming and diving and started the women's cross country and track and field teams while teaching in the physical education department.

Dennis Deason:

Move To Guard Is Opportunity

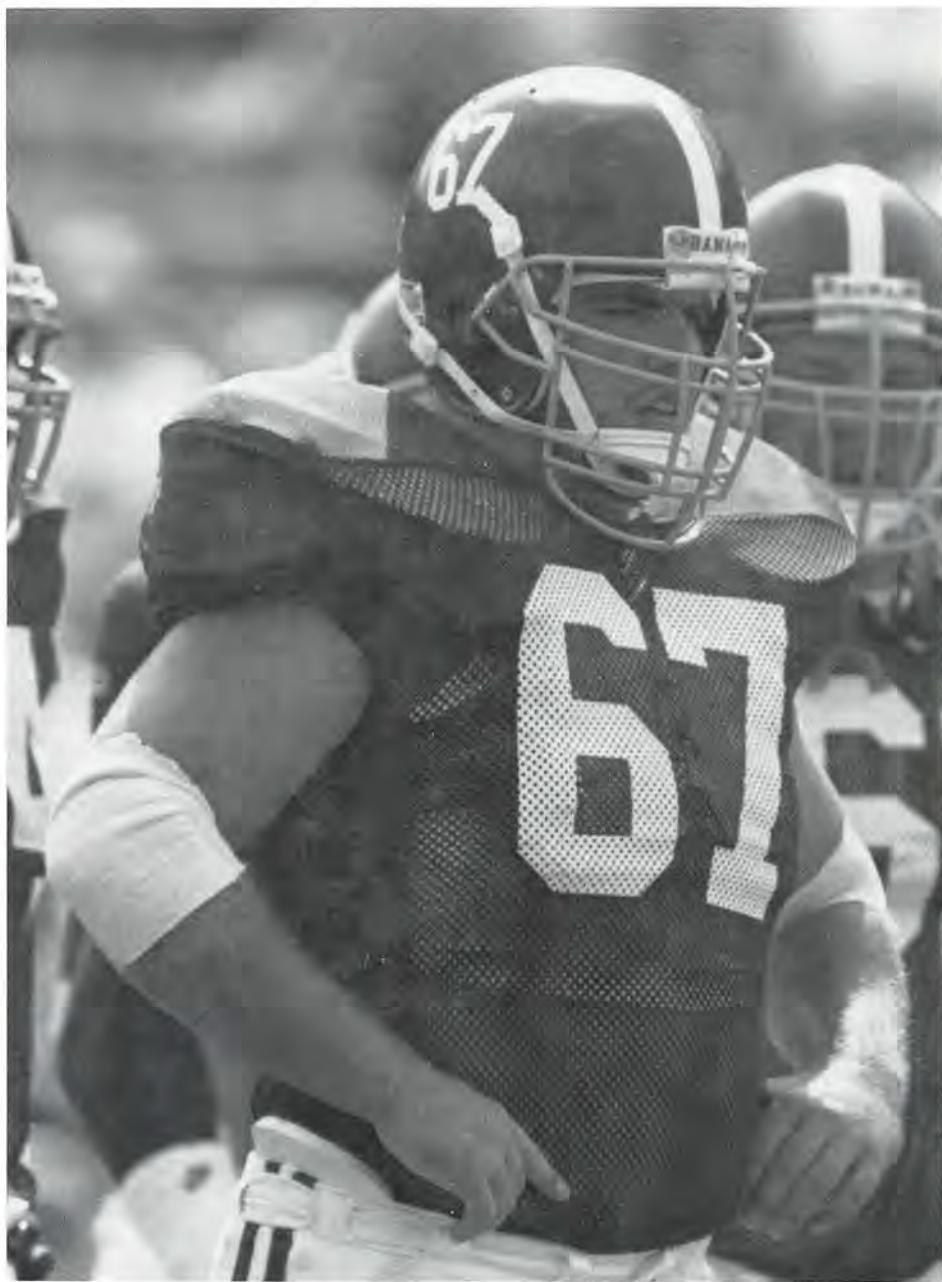
by Kirk McNair

A center all his life, senior makes the switch late

Dennis Deason said he looked at the 1993 Alabama football season, "And I saw I'd better plan on picking splin-

ters out of my butt. Playing behind an All-America like Tobie means a lot of time riding the pine." Deason, a senior, opened the 1993 season the way he finished the 1992 campaign, as backup center to Tobie Sheils, the Tide's returning All-Southeastern Conference center. And, sure enough, Sheils is getting practically every snap at center for the Tide.

However, a series of events have given Deason a lot more playing time, including a couple of starting assignments.



Dennis Deason (67) has waited for his opportunity and now he's getting it as an offensive guard. He was a backup center to Tobie Sheils, but problems at guard forced a switch.

Barry Fikes Photo

The offensive line returned nearly intact from one that began playing pretty well a year ago. The lone absentee was left guard George Wilson. The left guard spot has come in for a great deal of experimentation this year. John Clay had the job to begin with. Then Deason gave it a try. Maurice Belser had his shot. William Barger plays both left and right guards. Bama even worked backup tackle Joey Harville at left guard one game. Now Clay is back at left guard.

Meanwhile, Deason began getting some work at right guard, backing up three-year starter Jon Stevenson. When Stevenson suffered a knee injury against South Carolina, then re-injured the knee against Tennessee, the starting right guard assignment opened up, and Deason moved into it.

"It was a good break for me," Deason said of his opportunities at guard. "I've been a center since second grade, never played anything else. But if I had not gotten the chance to play guard, I wouldn't have gotten any playing time."

Alabama Assistant Coach Jim Fuller is hoping for the best since offensive line depth is not good. Fuller coaches Alabama's guards and centers, so he's Deason's coach regardless of where the senior from Birmingham plays. "He's told me for two years that he plays better than he practices," Fuller said. "I've tried to make the point to him that he's got to practice hard and give me the confidence in him to put him in a game. But he went in for Stevenson in the Tennessee game and played at a high level."

Fuller is also pleased that Deason is getting an opportunity to start. "It's difficult to play center and a guy who is trying to play both guard and center like Dennis is doing has really got to work," Fuller said. "But he's never said, 'If I could just play one position. . . He just wants a chance to play."

Dennis Deason didn't get an immediate opportunity to be an Alabama football player at any position. Although he says it was former Alabama Head Coach Bill Curry who wouldn't give him a scholarship, Fuller takes responsibility for that. "I saw him in high school and he was a good little player," Fuller said. But the operative word is "little." Fuller said, "I didn't know he was going to grow up to be 274 pounds. But he's one of those guys who has stayed in the weight room, works hard, and, I guess, eats good. It may help that his family is in the restaurant business."

"I was a little, bitty rascal," Deason said. "My senior year in high school I was about 5-11 and 212 pounds." But he was a good one, an all-city performer for Vestavia Hills. In the spring of his senior year, 1989, he had a growth spurt, up to 6-1 and over 250. Alabama still didn't have a scholarship for him, but Auburn did.

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/NOVEMBER '93

ALABAMA VIDEOS

"I always wanted to be at Alabama," Deason said. "Growing up, my entire family was all Alabama."

But it was off to Auburn. Deason was red-shirted as a freshman, then in 1990 came down with pneumonia, another year missed. He stayed at Auburn through the summer of 1991, then made a decision. He wanted to be at Alabama. However, a transfer to Alabama would have meant sitting out another year, and Deason wanted to play.

"I was already packed and ready to head to Tuscaloosa, but in the back of my mind I kept thinking I didn't want to go another year without playing football," Deason said. "And, I have to be honest, I also thought that if I went to Alabama, I wouldn't be able to play and I'd spend the whole year on the scout team trying to block big Robert Stewart." So he did some checking and found out he could get a scholarship and play football at Navarro Junior College in Corsicana, Texas.

"I got there a week before the first game," Deason said. "I had gotten my weight up to about 268 and I was in good shape when I was at Auburn, but after the pneumonia I had dropped down to 245. And I was a fat 245," he added.

Nevertheless, with only one practice in pads under his belt, Deason started at center for Navarro in the first game. And he started the next 10 games as the team finished with a 9-2 record and third place national junior college finish.

Then Alabama had a scholarship for him. Deason may be the only man ever to have football scholarships to both Alabama and Auburn.

Deason reported to Bama in time for fall practice last year and ended up as a backup center. However, Sheils played almost every snap. Deason played in only six games, seeing the most playing time in Bama's win over South Carolina.

Daison has continued to grow. He's up to 6-2 now, and his official weight is 275. Actually, Deason grows a little and shrinks a little each week.

"We weigh in on Mondays and I'm supposed to be 275," Deason said. "If I'm overweight, I get the diet plate. So I diet all weekend. I'm usually about 282 on Saturdays."

The diet plate is a low fat meal prepared for designated athletes. "It's good, and it's a decent amount," Deason said. "It's just not enough for me—a half a chicken breast and vegetables, something like that."

Deason had a bit of a scare recently. "I went in to weigh on Monday and I was 280," he said. "I don't know what happened, but somehow I didn't lose the weight over the weekend. So I dodged Coach Caruthers (Bama Strength and Conditioning Coach LeBaron Caruthers, who monitors weight) for a couple of days until I was down to 275."

Deason appreciates good food and plans to join his father, Harold, in the restaurant busi-

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ness in Birmingham following his graduation in the spring. He has worked at the restaurant, "Incahoots," each summer since he was in the eighth grade, starting out as a dish washer and bus boy, finally graduating to cook.

Although most of Deason's work this fall was at center, he began getting some practice time at left guard in mid-September, then work at right guard early this month. "Making the switch from left guard to right guard isn't a big change, but center to guard is a big adjustment on pass blocking," Deason said. He hadn't practiced at guard at all prior to this fall.

"The first day I practiced at guard against our defensive line, I got battered," he said. "I'm getting more comfortable there, now. I'm probably still more comfortable at center than guard, but I want to play and I want to help the team, and it looks like I can do that better at guard."

Running plays don't present as much problem for Deason following the switch. Pass blocking is quite a bit different. "At center, if you have a man on you, you get help from a guard. If you don't have a man on you, you help out a guard. But you always have help. At guard, you only have the center helping you about 50 per cent of the time, because the other half of the time he's working with the other guard."

Deason played the final drive for the tying touchdown against Tennessee after Stevenson was injured. "Until the quarterback sneak for the touchdown, every play was pass blocking," he said. "My confidence was kind of shaky."

Offensive line play involves learning more techniques than about any position in football, one reason it takes so long to develop a good offensive line. "You have to do a lot of thinking," Deason said. "I've spent a lot of time watching film. I watched film with Coach Fuller and that helped me a lot to un-

derstand the mistakes I've got to correct."

Deason said, "I wish I could have been here all five years. I think I would have been a lot further along. College football is so

technical it takes a good year just to polish up what you've learned." For Dennis Deason and for Alabama's football team, it's important that he polish up a lot quicker.

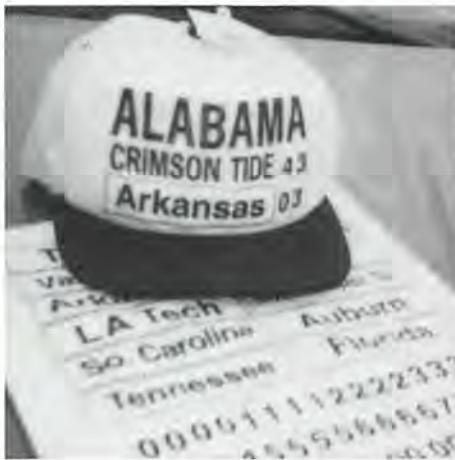
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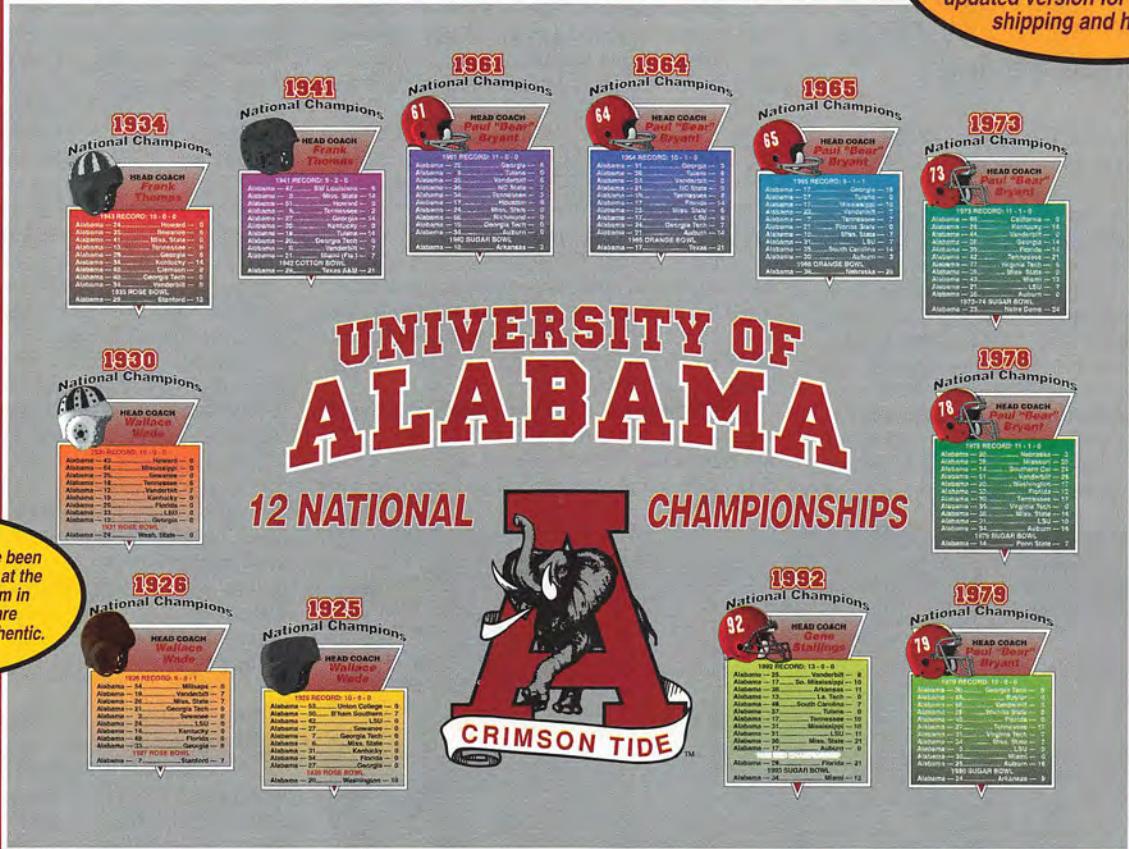
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Shannon Brown:

He's Taking Care Of Business

by John Barnes

Tide sophomore has gone back to where he started, to the defensive line

No one has to tell Alabama's Shannon Brown the meaning of the word "responsibility." One of only three married players on the Alabama team, Brown considers himself a husband and father first, a student and football player second.

For the 6-5, 265-pound sophomore from Millbrook, responsibilities begin at home and end on the gridiron. "It's a different situation for me than it is for other players," he said. "Not to take anything away from anyone else, but I had to learn quick what it means to keep your priorities in order. All the other guys on the team have to worry about is school and football, hopefully in

that order. Not only do I have those things to deal with, but also with things like rent, bills and day care. It forces you to grow up quick."

A self-proclaimed "Air Force brat," Brown was born in England and spent time at bases in Florida, Nebraska and Texas, before settling in Millbrook, where his father, now retired, was stationed at Gunter Air Force Base. "I guess there are advantages and disadvantages to all the travelling and relocation," said Brown. "It gave me an opportunity to experience different cultures and attitudes. But I like it in Alabama best."

A three sport letterman at Stanhope-Elmore high school, Brown was recruited as a defensive lineman. A 5A all-state pick, he was wooed by virtually every school in the Southeastern Conference, in addition to Nebraska and Wisconsin.

"It was never a foregone conclusion that I would sign with Alabama," he said. "Both my brother and uncle played at Auburn, so they were always on my mind. I enjoyed my

visit to Wisconsin, but like Nebraska, it was a little too far from home. At one point, I was leaning towards Mississippi State. I really liked their facilities, but I didn't care too much for the coach. He told me things I knew would never happen. I expect people to be honest and I don't believe he was." After a visit to Alabama, Brown's mind was made up. "Coach Stallings and Coach Dubose, I liked the way they talked to me," Brown said. "They were very up front with me. They told me what was expected and what I would have to do to be a good football player. I appreciated their honesty and made up my mind then and there. The tradition, the atmosphere, everything just seemed right. It's just something you know and feel when it's right."

Following a redshirt year in 1991, Brown moved into the playing rotation, providing solid backup help to nose tackle James Gregory, playing in nine games and recording eight tackles, including two quarterback sacks against Auburn. "I guess you could say 1991 was a good learning experience for me," he said. "Playing with John (Copeland) and Eric (Curry) was an experience I'll never forget. Those guys forced you to elevate your level of play and I think it's carried over into this season with all the guys on the D line."

Following Bama's 1992 championship campaign, Brown was given the option of moving to the offensive side of the football. "We felt at the time that moving Shannon to offensive tackle would not only help the team, but give him a better chance to pursue a career in professional football," said Defensive Line Coach Mike Dubose.

Working exclusively at offensive tackle throughout spring practice, Brown was beginning to settle in at his new position. He played the entire A-Day game at right tackle for the white squad. "It wasn't so bad," he said. "I played offense in high school. It's a different perspective on the game, but once you get used to it, you start to enjoy it just as much as defense. Either way, I'm going to hit somebody, so it really doesn't matter."

As fall two-a-days concluded, Brown was continuing to work with the Tide offense, looking forward to his first season on the offensive line as a backup to tackle Roosevelt Patterson. He played 35 snaps in the Tulane game and was beginning to get a true feel for the position.

What Brown didn't realize was that the Tulane game would be his last as an offensive lineman. Nose tackle James Gregory injured a



Shannon Brown started his Alabama football career as a defensive lineman, had a brief fling on the offensive line, and is now back playing defense, and playing it very well.

Barry Fikes Photo

knee, adding further depth problems to an already-depleted Bama defensive front. Although it was unknown at the time, Brown would soon be back home on the defensive line.

In what he refers to as "the strangest day of my life," Brown was summoned to Head Coach Gene Stallings' office the following Monday. "I didn't know what was going on," said Brown. "I knew I hadn't done anything wrong, so I was a little scared." Once again, Brown was given the option of changing positions, this time back to the defensive line, an opportunity he welcomed. "I really do think of it as my natural position," he said. "Certainly, I'll play wherever, but I think defense suits my attitude better than offense. All I ever wanted was to play. I hope I'll be an asset to the defense at some point."

According to Dubose, he already is. "Shannon is a very intense, very intelligent player," said Dubose. "He's mature beyond his years and I think it helps him on the football field. The fact that he has a family and all that added responsibility has forced him to grow up quicker than the average college player. I think it helps him to focus on his goals a little more clearly than most players his age."

Brown played sparingly against Vanderbilt, Arkansas and Louisiana Tech. Against South Carolina, with Bama coaches experimenting with a 4-3 defensive alignment, as opposed to the traditional 3-4, Brown got his opportunity to shine. Bama abandoned its normal front approach to go with four defensive linemen, in part to confuse Gamecock quarterback Steve Tannyhill, but more so to suit a defensive scheme to the Tide's existing personnel. "It's not something we did overnight," said Dubose. "We ran it some last year, but nothing like we did against Carolina."

Alabama traditionally has been an odd-man front defensive team (a nose tackle and two defensive ends in current nomenclature) with the defensive linemen having two-gap option, meaning at the snap of the ball the defensive lineman determines the best route to the opponent's backfield. Now Bama is working with an even front, two tackles and two ends, and now the linemen have set assignments and predetermined paths to the quarterback or ball carrier. It is a considerably less-complicated scheme, one that suits Brown just fine.

"It's not that our linemen can't handle the 3-4," said Brown. "In fact, just the opposite. The 3-4 has been our bread and butter. But our coaches are smart enough to realize that our personnel is different from last year. They suit the alignment to the personnel rather than the personnel to the alignment."

The end result was Alabama's finest defensive performance of the season, and the best game of Shannon Brown's young career. Brown responded to the new alignment the way Tide coaches hoped he would—five tackles, including a sack and a batted-down pass, not to mention numerous quarterback pressures of Tannyhill. On every play, it

seemed as if Brown or Jeremy Nunley or both, were in Tannyhill's face. It was not by accident. "Tannyhill got us fired up because of his mouth," said Brown. "This guy thinks he's something special, but believe me, he's not. Anyone who talks as much as he does and plays to the crowd as much as he does and can't back it up is a joke. I can think of three or four quarterbacks in this league who are better than he ever thought about being. This guy needs a reality check before someone hurts him bad."

Brown is indeed an enthusiastic player. Dubose feels that enthusiasm may very well be Brown's best attribute. "He's so intense on the field, he gets everyone else fired up," he said. "Shannon's a long way from being the player we want him to be, but remember he's only a sophomore. When he gets a little experience under his belt he could be one of the more dominant players in our league."

What about the chances of Brown being moved back to offense again now that the Bama D-line is healthy? "I don't think we'll see that happen anytime soon," said Dubose. "Right now, some of the younger guys have come along pretty good over there. We're not ruling anything out. If Coach Stallings says to move him back, we'll move him back. But

I don't foresee that happening. After all, we have his future to think about, too."

Brown has his attention on Alabama having a successful football season, on earning his degree, and on his family, but not in that order. "I'd be lying if I told you my family didn't come first," he said. "I have a wife and a little girl. That's what is important. They have to be taken care of first. Then comes school, then football. Father and husband; student; athlete. That is the order of my priorities."

When the articulate Brown speaks of his family, he speaks with conviction. "Football is very important because it's what I want to do. School is important because when football is over, I'll still have that degree and I hope to be teaching someday. But my family is what it's all about. They'll be there long after football is over. There will come a time when my family will be all I have, so it's important to maintain a sense of order during this very busy time in my life."

No one can ever accuse Shannon Brown of not having his life together. He has no choice. While his teammates play Nintendo, he changes diapers. Ask Shannon Brown about sacrifice, or too much going on in a young person's life. His answer: "I wouldn't have it any other way."

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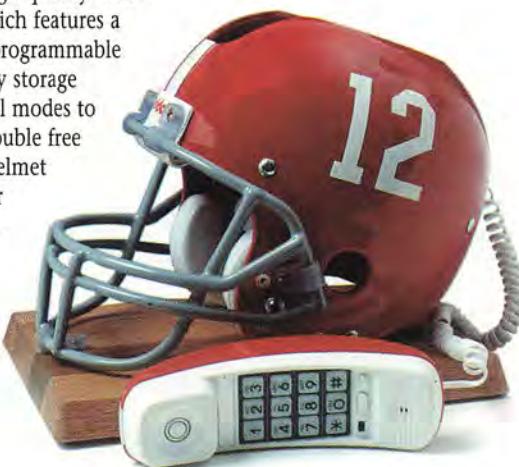
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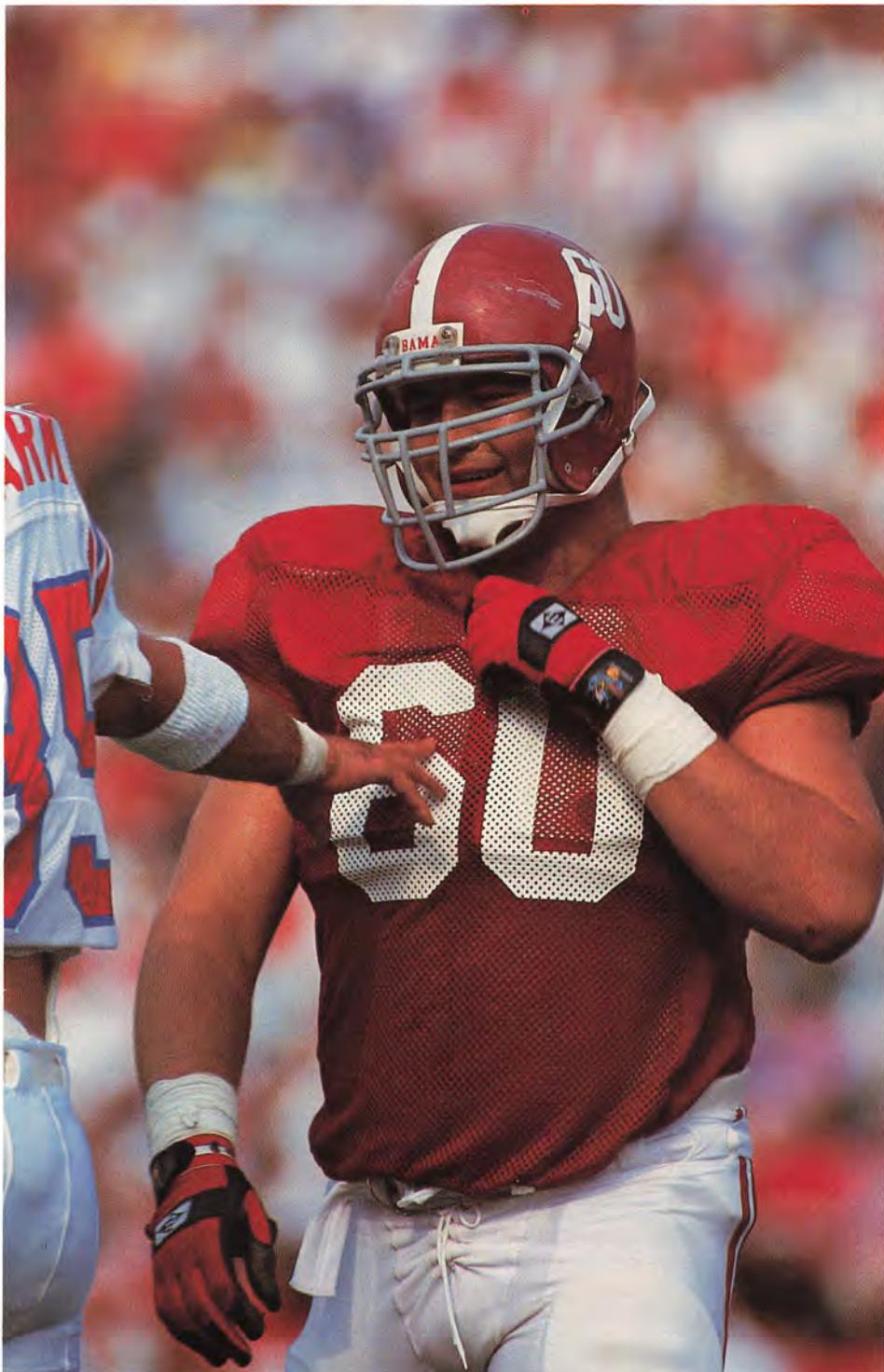
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Joey Harville:

First Team Any Way You Look At It

by Donald F. Staffo

Junior offensive lineman has done well at tackle, and now Bama coaches hope he can fill void at guard



Refrigerator Harville just doesn't have that ring to it. Although Joey Harville has seen playing time at several offensive positions for Alabama, no one has suggested tailback. And it isn't likely to be suggested, even though Harville averaged an eye-popping 26 yards per carry as a high school player.

Of course, as is often the case in statistical analysis, there is a catch. Harville had just one carry as a high school star at Hatton High School, that on the first play of the third game as Hatton squared off against rival Moulton. "They told me the day before the game that I was going to run on the first play, and I was nervous all day," Harville said. "My hands were sweating. I was the power I back. They gave it to me and I went with it."

Hatton coaches didn't press their luck. Harville's career as a running back started and ended with one play. "Oh, about twice a game I'd line up in the backfield, usually when we were down near the goalline," Harville said. "But I was just a blocker."

It is "just" as a blocker that Harville is making his mark at Alabama. The 6-5, 285-pound junior has come in for high praise from Tide Head Coach Gene Stallings throughout the year. Rarely a week goes by that Stallings doesn't mention Harville as working hard and getting better, the attributes a coach looks for in a player.

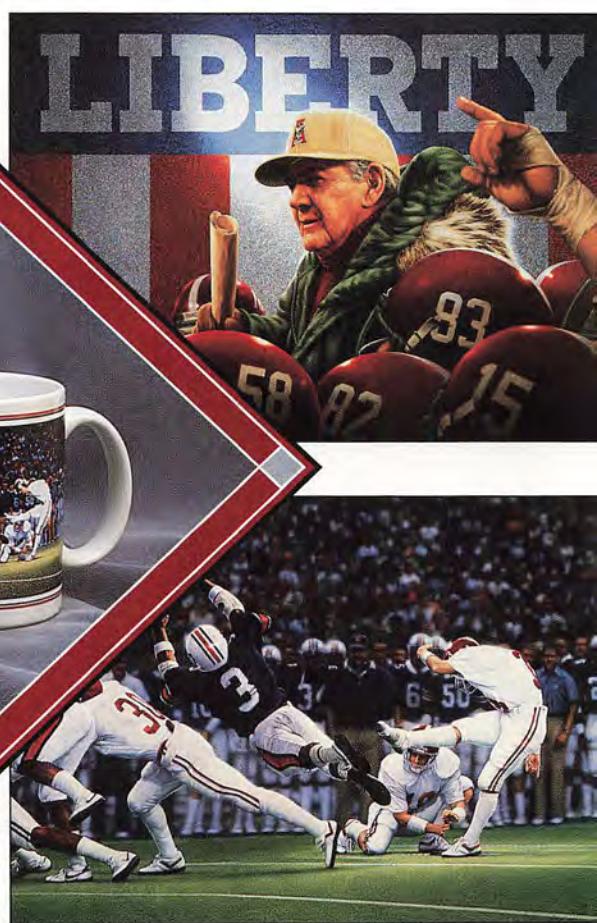
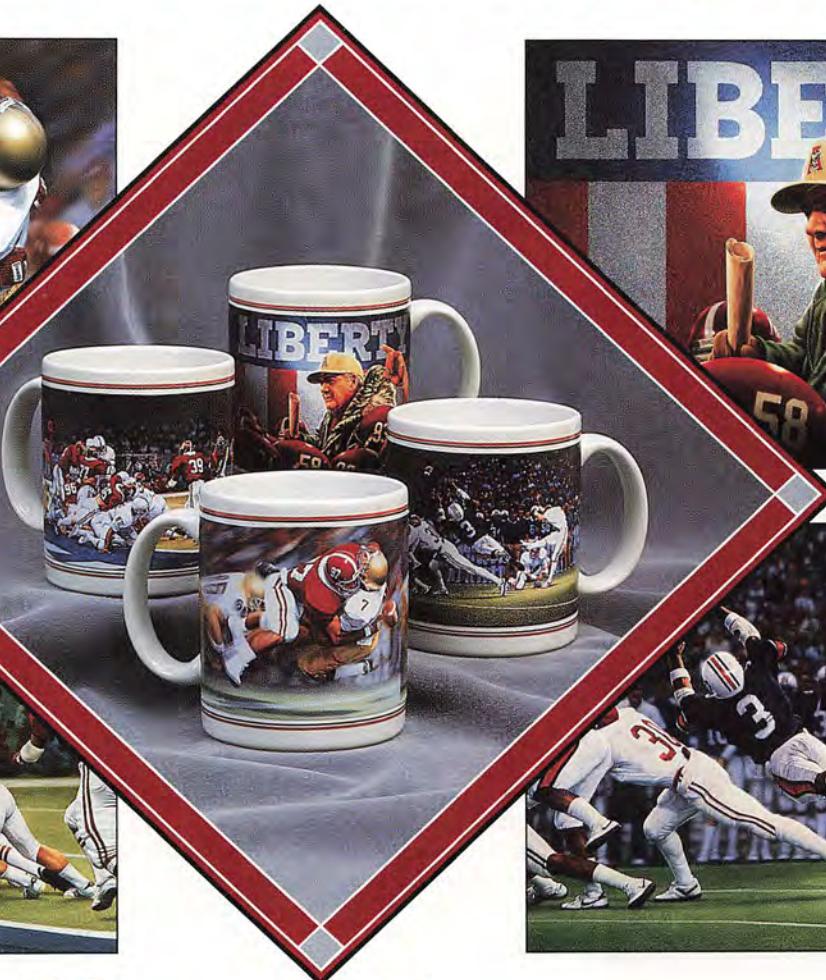
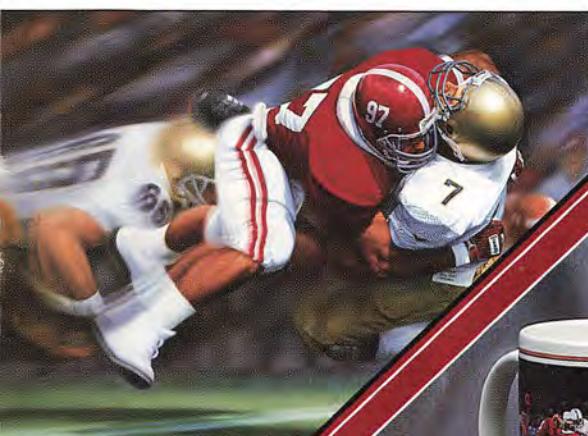
Although most of his Alabama career has been at tackle, he is now the starter at left guard as Alabama attempts to get its best 11 players on the field together. The problem with Harville being at guard is that when he is just at tackle he plays about as many plays as the starters, Matt Hammond on the left side and Roosevelt Patterson on the right.

Harville has been a contributor almost since day one. He was one of a dozen true freshmen to play in 1991. He saw action in every game in that 11-1 season as an offensive lineman. The following spring he was recipient of the Paul

Junior Joey Harville has been a contributor since coming to Alabama, primarily until this season as a back-up at offensive tackle. He hopes to be a starting tackle in his senior season, but for now he's Bama's starting left guard.

Barry Fikes Photo

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In last year's 13-0 national championship season, Harville saw considerable action in all but one game and earned two starting assignments, against Arkansas and Mississippi State.

Harville's move to guard the week prior to the Tennessee game was both a tribute to his performance throughout the year and also a clue to the trouble spot on the Tide offensive line. Only one starter was lost from last year's offensive front, left guard George Wilson. Several players were put into the spot—John Clay, who was the backup last year; Maurice Belser, who has been in a bit of a sophomore slump; Dennis Deason, who also backs up at center and right guard; William Barger, a former starter at right guard—but all had problems of one kind or another. Some performed well enough as pass blockers, but not run blockers, or vice versa. Others had penalties. Neither Stallings nor Jimmy Fuller, who coaches Bama's guards and centers, was pleased.

While guard would seem to be Harville's immediate future, he is considered part of a three-man rotation at offensive tackle. "I'm the swing player, the only one who plays both sides," Harville said.

Usually he replaces either Hammond or Patterson on the game's second series, then replaces the other on the third series, then takes a break on the fourth series before starting the rotation again. "That gives the three of us about equal playing time," Harville said. "But more than that, it helps because it gives each of us a break and that enables us to go full speed when we're in the game."

Danny Pearman, who coaches Alabama's offensive tackles, said, "I don't consider Joey a backup player. I consider him a starter. He's an asset because he gives us a chance to spell the other two. I feel we've got three pretty good tackles right now."

Stallings has explained from time-to-time that starting is not critical, that several players can be considered first team, but only one can start at each position. Both Hammond, who is working on a long starting streak, and Patterson are seniors. Harville is expected to return to full time tackle duty next year. Meanwhile, in addition to guard work, he is listed second behind both Hammond and Patterson on the depth chart, with Kareem McNeal backing

him up at left tackle, Pete DiMario behind him on the right side.

Although it is somewhat rare for a man to play both left and right tackle, Pearman said the two positions are similar, the big difference being that the majority of the time the opponent's best pass-rusher lines up on the left side of a right-handed quarterback.

At Alabama, Harville said, "That means the left tackle is more or less the pass protection guy who has to stop the other team's best pass rusher from getting blind side hits (on the quarterback), the kind they like best. On the right side, the guy you're playing across from is usually not as quick. You pretty much have to do the same things except the defensive guy can go inside or outside to rush the passer, or play against the run either way."

Harville has very good quickness, one reason he said, "It really doesn't make much difference to me which side I'm on. I feel I can play either side equally well." Another reason for Harville's success is his knowledge of the opponent. "I work hard at learning my plays," he said. That's particularly important at guard, where assignments are more complex than at tackle.

Knowing where you're supposed to be and what you're supposed to do is critical, especially when alternately playing on opposite sides of the center. "When Joey goes from left tackle to right tackle, he has to switch the plays in his mind and switch the numbering system," Pearman said.

Pearman said that Harville is more serious this year, perhaps because he recently married. "I saw a difference in attitude," Pearman said. "Joey now has a super attitude towards football, school, everything. He came back in shape and that has made a difference in our being able to count on him for quality playing time, now and in the future. Joey has been a real bright spot in our offensive line.

But to get better, Pearman said Harville needs to get in the weight room. Harville agrees. "I think my biggest weakness is my (relative lack of) strength," Harville said. "I need to work on that and build it up." He currently bench presses 375 pounds, but wants to bench at least 400. He squats about 500 pounds and wants that up to at least 550.

Harville has reasonable speed for a lineman, clocking about a 4.9-second

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time in the 40-yard dash. But, he said, he wants to be quicker. "The quicker you can be the better you can play, because you know the defensive linemen are going to be quick," he said. "You have to be quicker than they are in order to block them."

Harville has had some good experience in trying to block quick men. "My freshman year I worked against the first defense in practice every day, trying to block Eric Curry and John Copeland," he said. "There's no way you can block those guys unless you've got good quickness." He said working against the former Tide All-America defensive ends was a big help to him. "If you work hard in practice and block those guys, you can pretty much block anybody," he said.

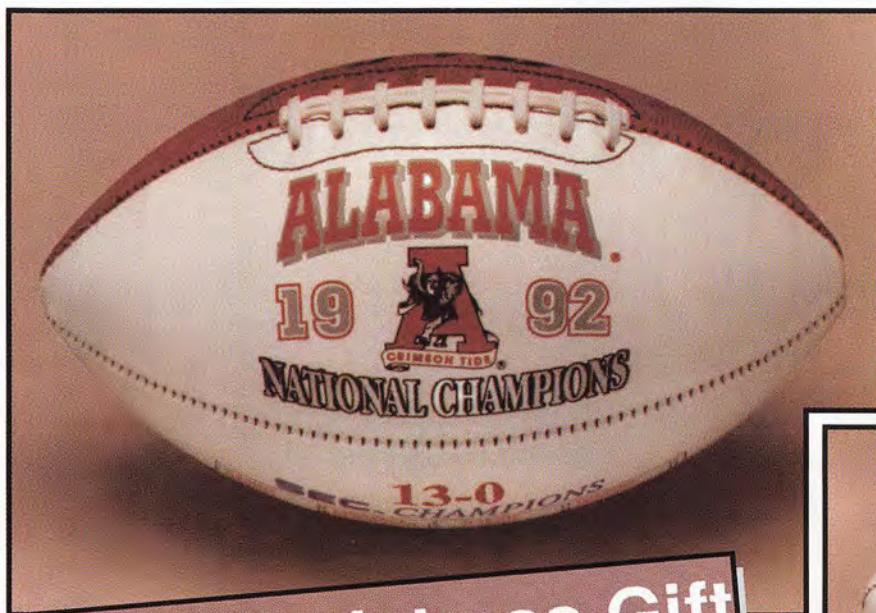
Alabama's prime recruiting competition for Harville came from an unlikely place. It was not surprising that Harville was contacted by virtually every Southeastern Conference team. As primarily an offensive tackle and defensive end ("We were a small school and I played every position you can imagine," Harville said.) he led his teams to a three-year record of 29-7 and he earned all-state and prep All-America honors. Additionally, he was an excellent student. But he narrowed his choices to Alabama and West Virginia.

"West Virginia was the second school that really started to recruit me and I enjoyed my visit there," Harville explained. "I liked the mountains. But I've been an Alabama fan all my life, and the Alabama tradition got to me. I wanted to be a part of that tradition. I also felt that with the coaches here, it was a chance for me to be the player I want to be. I've never been much of an Auburn fan, and I didn't want to go to any other SEC school. That's why West Virginia was my second choice."

Although it seems Harville just got here, now he can begin to look ahead to his senior year. "Naturally, the main thing on my mind is this season," he said. "But next year I see myself as a left tackle, because I feel I've improved my pass blocking a lot. We'll probably have four tackles to work into a game, but I want to be a starter. As a senior, I also want to be a good leader for the rest of my teammates. But I know I'll have to push myself just as hard as I did this year in order to start. I know it's not going to be handed to me."

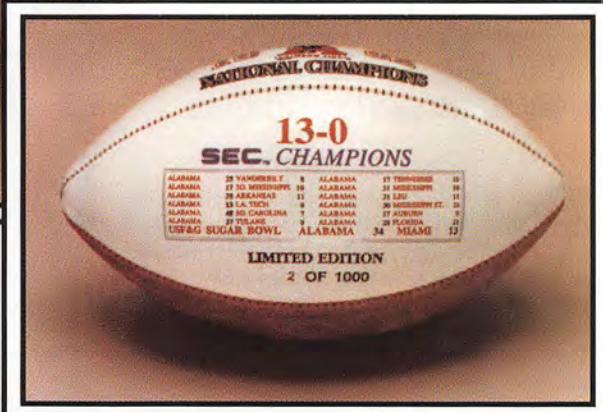
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Basketball Outlook:

Talent May Overcome Inexperience

by Kirk McNair

Second year should be a good one for David Hobbs despite important losses

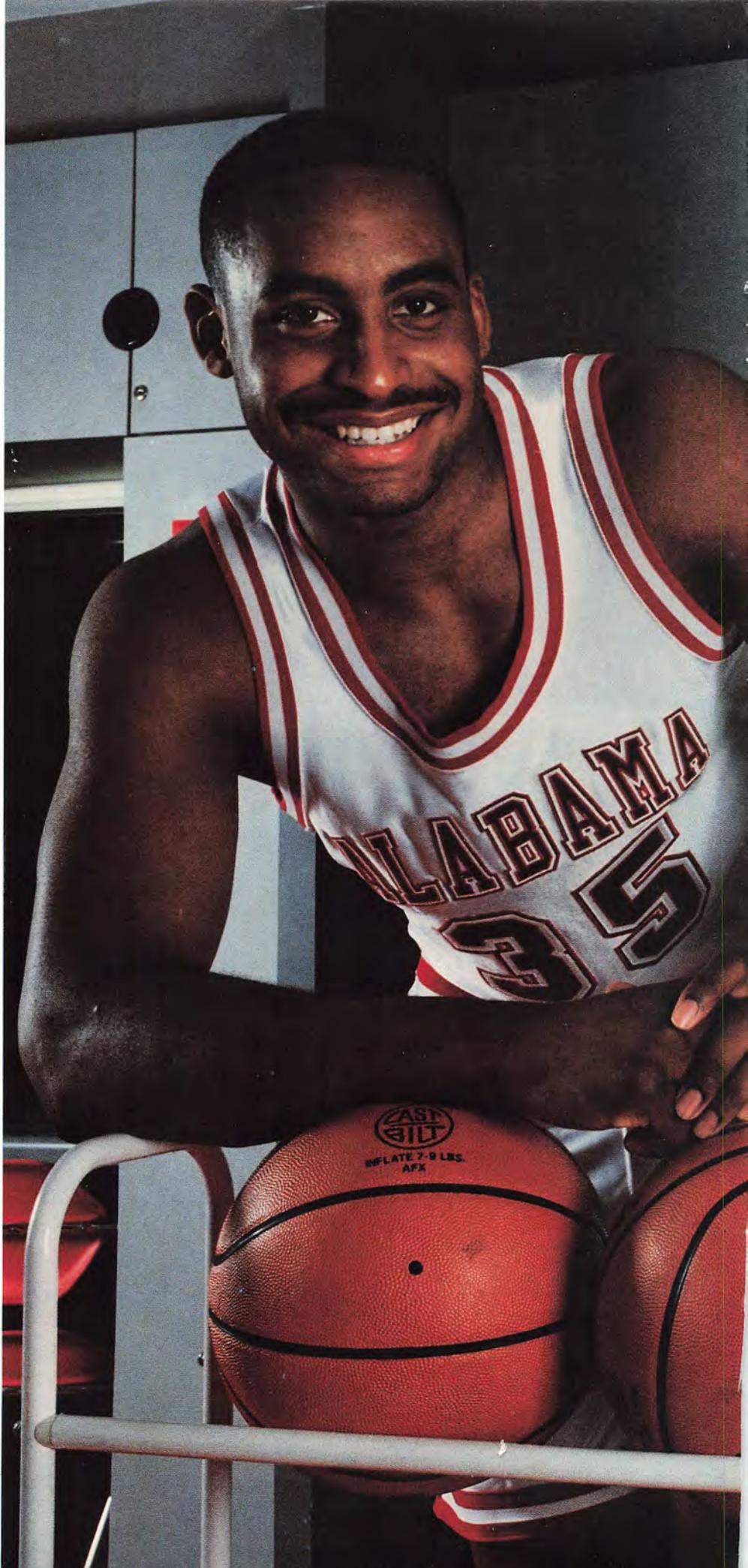
Prior to his first season as Alabama's head basketball coach a year ago, David Hobbs looked over the rosters of the 12 Southeastern Conference teams and came to the realization that he had, by far, the most inexperienced team. The Tide's 14 players included only five lettermen with a total of six years of experience. As it turned out, Bama's only two senior players—point guard Elliot Washington and forward Andre Perry—would be almost insignificant because of Washington quitting, Perry suffering an injury in the opening SEC game. But things would be different this year with nine lettermen, including four starters, who had a total of 13 years experience returning. Then a not-so-funny thing happened on the way to 1993-94. Guard James Robinson, the Tide's leading scorer the past three years, elected to go into the National Basketball Association draft. And center Cedric Moore elected to forgo his final two years to join a professional basketball team in Europe.

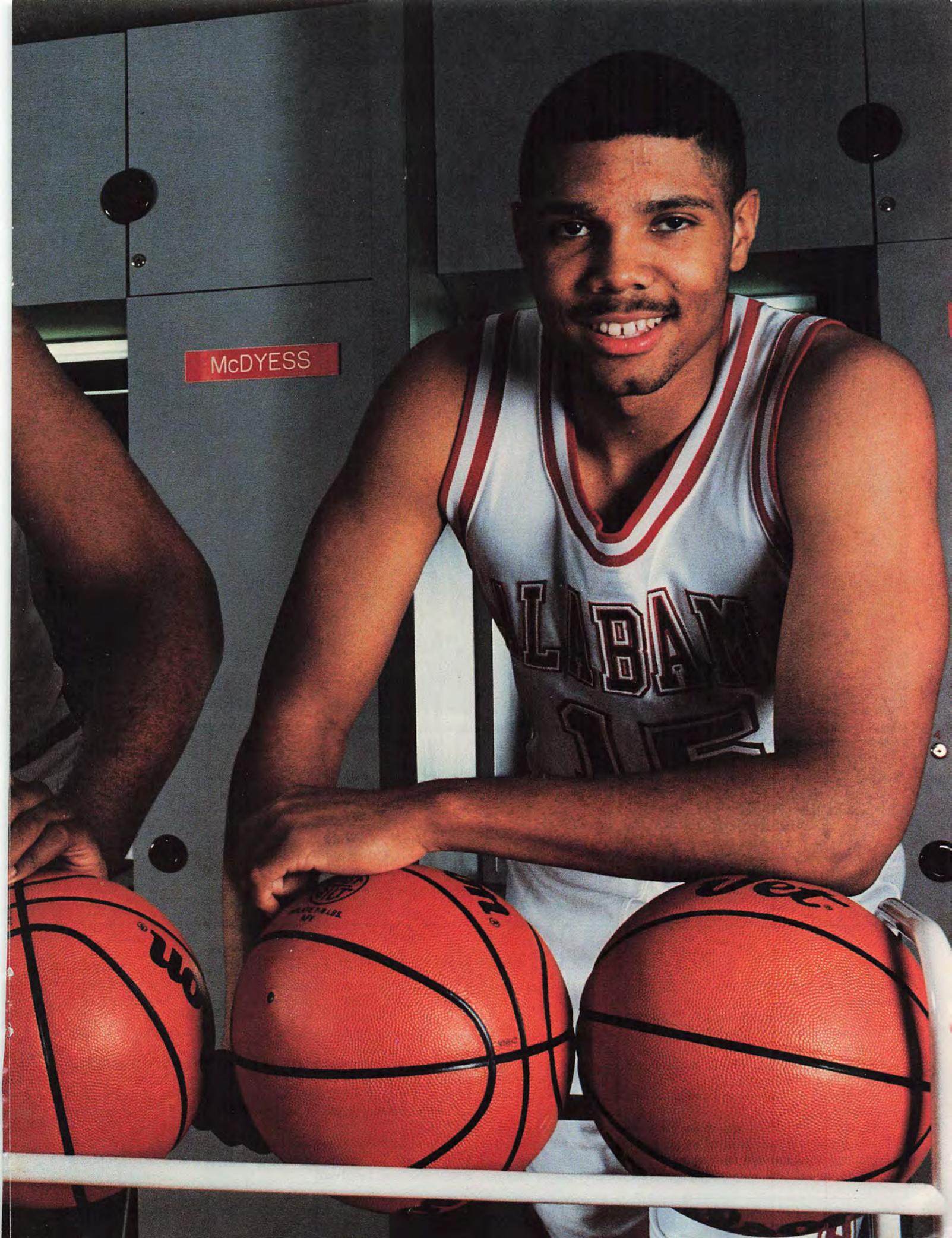
Now Hobbs is back about where he was a year ago, seven lettermen, eight years experience. Only Alabama, Mississippi State and Tennessee have as few as two starters returning. And it's not like Alabama is coming off a big year. Last year the Tide was 16-13, only 7-9 in SEC play, and suffered a humiliating home court loss to Alabama-Birmingham in the final game of the season.

Nevertheless, even with only about half the points returning from last year's team, there is an air of optimism about Alabama basketball. That's partly because the

Alabama was woefully short of experience a year ago, but expected to have at least four starters returning this season. Instead, Bama again has two starters back, Jason Calley (left) and Marvin Orange.

Barry Fikes Photo





McDYESS



Second-year Alabama Head Basketball Coach David Hobbs knows where he wants to take the Crimson Tide program, but the building process is a difficult one with inexperienced players.

Barry Fikes Photo

Alabama recruiting class of two junior college players from Texas and two high school stars from Mississippi has been judged one of the nation's best. Throw in a transfer who is considered one of the nation's finest players and who is eligible this year after sitting out last season, and the newcomers are expected to play a significant role.

Additionally, the awkward transition, when former Tide Head Coach Wimp Sanderson was forced to resign following the 1992 season, is now complete. Hobbs and his staff (which remains intact with assistants Gregg Polinsky, James Green and Lane Odom) begin trying to put the pieces together when practice gets underway November 1.

Hobbs believes that, "We have more overall talent than a year ago, but we're still not experienced. But I like the talent level. And even though we have a lot of new guys, we had a lot of new ones last year and now they have a year of experience. Still, it's hard to believe that Jason is the only player we have with two years experience here."

1993-94 Men's Basketball Rules Changes

Here are the primary changes in the rules for men's basketball this season:

Reduced the shot clock from 45 seconds to 35 seconds.

The game clock will stop after successful field goals in the last minute of the game and the last minute of any overtime period with the clock to re-start when the ball is in-bounded. There can be no substitution during this time.

Eliminated the five-second dribbling violation against a closely-guarded player.

Expanded the definition of an intentional foul to say a foul shall be ruled intentional if, while playing the ball, a player causes excessive contact with an opponent.

The shot clock will not be reset when a defensive player causes

a held ball and the possession arrow favors the offensive team.

Any individual who participates in a fight during his team's final game of the season will be suspended from participating in the team's next regular season game for which that individual would be eligible.

Expanded the rule concerning the use of profanity to include abusive and obscene language by players and coaches.

Jerseys may include a single color plain black or white patch on the shoulder or sleeve to honor the memory of a deceased person.

Eliminated mandatory lag time for errors by the timer. Officials shall correct for actual time when they define information relative to the time involved.

Another possible advantage for Hobbs is having two seniors who were junior college transfers. Historically at Alabama, junior college transfers have done well. For instance, David Benoit and Latrell Sprewell are players who came to Alabama from junior colleges and left Alabama for the NBA. However, it is fair to say all junior college transfers have done much better after a year of adjustment.

Hobbs points to defense as the critical area for Bama. "To be successful, we need to work on our defense," he said. "All last year that was the one thing I was never pleased with."

Although there is some overlap in positions in Alabama's system, the Tide will generally be trying to fill positions 1 (point guard), 2 (wing guard), 3 (small forward), 4 (power forward), and 5 (center). Returning starters are sophomore point guard Marvin Orange, who was thrust from backup to starter when Washington quit last year, and junior power forward Jason Caffey, the only player to start every basketball game for Alabama a year ago.

It is not surprising that Marvin Orange is projected as the starting point guard this year, but it was a surprise that he came back as the returning starter. The plan was to bring Orange, 6-0, along slowly as a backup to Washington. When Washington quit, Orange became the starter for the final 13 games of the year. "Marvin was under the gun last year," Hobbs said. "The residuals of that will be positive in the long run. Marvin knows what to do and what it takes. He has good offensive skills, but he needs to improve on defense. I think he is a real key as to how we do this year." Orange was not a good shooter last year (37.5 per cent from the field, 32.8 per cent on three-pointers, 51.9 per cent on free throws) and averaged only 4.3 points per game. He had 43 assists and 44 turnovers and only eight steals.

Alabama didn't know Robertson was going to leave early for the NBA until after the majority of recruiting work had been done last year. When he declared for the draft, Bama had to scramble to shore up its guard corps. The scrambling led to McLennan Junior College in Waco, Texas, where Terrance Bethel, 6-0, a former Bronx prep star, had led his team to an undefeated regular season. "You don't ever know how a junior college player is going to do, but at least he has played at a step higher than the high school level," Hobbs said.

The third candidate at point guard will see playing time, although he probably will not start. Philip Pearson, 6-2, is a walkon, a senior who is likely to be team

captain. Last year he did start one game, a critical contest at Tennessee when Bama had several players ill, and the Tide took that road victory. Alabama records show Pearson to be the only walkon ever to start a game for the Crimson Tide.

There is a possibility that another junior college transfer, Artie Griffin, could play at the number one position, but he is more likely to be a leading candidate to fill the spot vacated by the departure of Robinson, the so-called shooting guard

spot. (In Robinson's case it was more than "so-called" as he took nearly 30 per cent of Alabama's shots in 1993.)

Hobbs calls the upcoming competition at the wing guard position "interesting."

Griffin, 6-4, originally signed with Texas A&M after being prep player of the year in San Antonio. He was a 30-points-per-game prep star who was an all-star in junior college, averaging 19.4 points per game last year.

Last year Bama used two types of players

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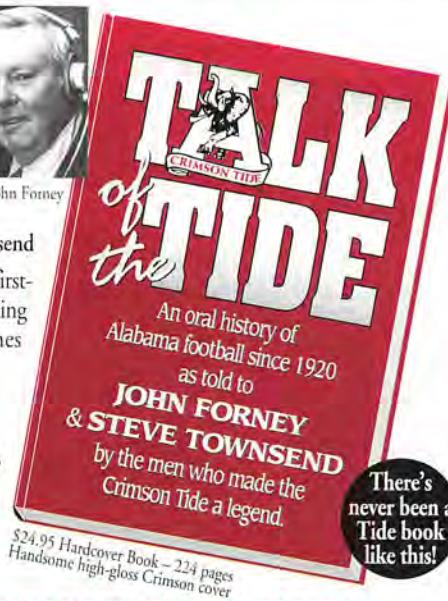


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as a backup to Robinson. Bryan Passink, a 6-3 sophomore, is more the traditional wing guard, an outside shooter. However, Passink didn't have a good shooting year last year, 39.8 per cent from the field, 37.3 per cent on three-pointers, 50 per cent from the foul line. He averaged 3.8 points per game. However, Hobbs thinks last year's statistics are somewhat meaningless because Passink was probably pressing when he subbed for Robinson. "He hasn't played a lot," Hobbs said. "He's gotten bigger and stronger and improved his game."

Walter Pitts, a 6-1 senior, showed marked improvement during the season after transferring from junior college. "He's a tough, hard-nosed guy who plays good defense and will take it to the basket," Hobbs said. Pitts shot well from the field (51.2 per cent), but not from three-point range or the free throw line. He averaged 4.8 points per game.

One of Alabama's high school signees, 6-4 Eric Washington, is also a candidate at the two guard. He averaged 23.7 points as a prep star and was also able to pull down 13 rebounds per game, an important asset for a wing player. "Eric has a lot to learn, like anyone coming in from high school, but he's very athletic, shoots it well, and he's a smart player," Hobbs said.

Hobbs doesn't expect any of the wing guards to average over 20 points per game like Robinson did, but hopes that the total output from the position will approach 20 and that the overall play at the position will offset the loss of Robinson.

If the battle at two is interesting, consider the outlook at the small forward position. Last year, Hobbs closed Alabama practices to spectators early in

1993-94 Alabama Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Class	Hgt.	Wgt.	Exp.	Hometown
5	Wade Kaiser	C	Fr.	6-9	180	RS	Birmingham
11	Anthony Brown	G/F	Soph.	6-5	205	1L	St. Petersburg, Fla.
12	Terrance Bethel	G	Jr.	6-0	182	JC	Bronx, N.Y.
13	Philip Pearson	G	Sr.	6-2	175	Sq	Montgomery
14	Eric Washington	G	Fr.	6-4	180	HS	Jackson, Miss.
15	Marvin Orange	G	Soph.	6-0	180	1L	Columbia, S.C.
22	Bryan Passink	G	Soph.	6-3	180	1L	Savannah, Ga.
23	Walter Pitts	G	Sr.	6-1	195	1L	Loachopoka
24	Antonio McDyess	C/F	Fr.	6-9	220	HS	Quitman, Miss.
25	Artie Griffin	G	Jr.	6-4	180	JC	San Antonio, Texas
30	Jamal Faulkner	F	Jr.	6-7	215	Tr	New York
31	Vess Hollingsworth	F/G	Jr.	6-1	195	Tr	Hamilton
32	Shon Peck-Love	F/G	Sr.	6-5	195	1L	Tuscaloosa
35	Jason Caffey	F	Jr.	6-8	245	2L	Mobile
50	Roy Rogers	C	Soph.	6-9	212	1L	Linden

the season. But before he did, Tide practice-watchers were able to see an extraordinary basketball player.

Jamal Faulkner, 6-7, 215, could be either a small forward or a power forward in Alabama's offense. It is almost inconceivable that he won't be in the starting lineup when he becomes eligible for games with the Tide's December 21 game at Southern Miss, following the completion of The University's fall semester examinations. A New Yorker and prep All-America, he signed with Arizona State, had some off-the-court difficulties, and ended up transferring to Alabama last winter. He has two years of eligibility remaining. In his first two college seasons he was exceptional, including being

named Pac-10 Freshman of the Year in 1991. Incidentally, some Alabama fans have seen Faulkner in person in competition, since he scored 29 points against Arkansas in the 1991 NCAA Tournament the game before Arkansas eliminated Bama. Faulkner has gained over 10 pounds since coming to Alabama and is big enough to play inside, too.

The three position attracts players capable of playing either two or four. Griffin, Pitts and Washington, listed with the wing guards, could also see action at the small forward spot.

Anthony Brown is a top candidate at small forward after he came on strong late last season as a freshman. The 6-5, 205-pounder had his career best game against



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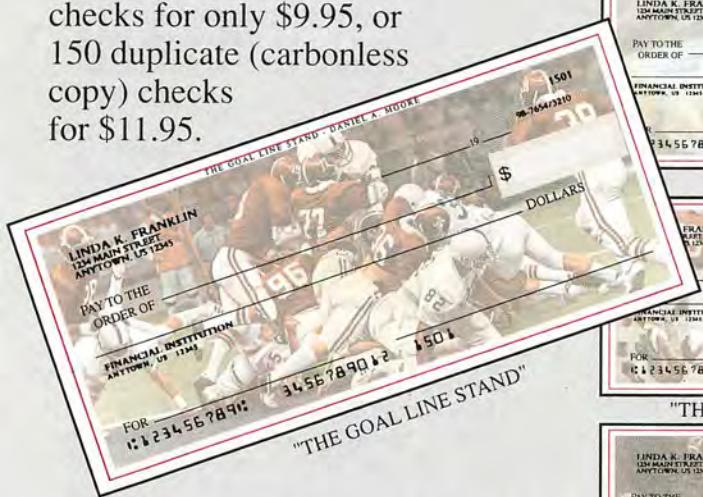
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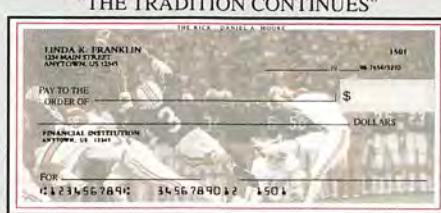
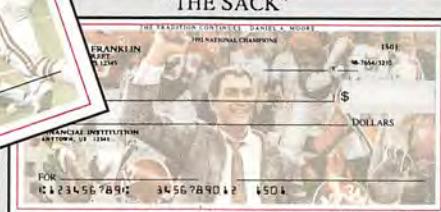
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South Carolina as he hit seven of nine field goal attempts and seven of eight free throws for 23 points. He also had 20 second-half points at Ole Miss on six of eight field goal shooting and seven of eight free throw scoring.

One of Alabama's two seniors, Shon Peck-Love, 6-5, started strong last year, but did not sustain his play. He started in 20 of the Tide's first 21 games, but only one after that. He finished with 6.6 points and 2.9 rebounds per game, including a career high 22 points against Tennessee State. It is interesting that in team information provided by Alabama's sports in-

formation office, Bama is shown to have two starters returning and to have lost two starters. Neither Peck-Love nor Moore is listed as a 1993 starter.

Last year Alabama got help from a couple of walk-ons, Pearson and Jeff Lovell. This year another non-scholarshipped player is attempting to make the squad. And he's got a familiar name to Crimson Tide fans, particularly Bama football fans.

Vess Hollingsworth, younger brother of former Tide quarterback Gary, played for highly-successful Glen Clem at Walker College in Jasper. The 6-1, 195-pounder, who might also be able to play at big

guard, is considered to be an exceptional outside shooter.

Because he is 6-9, most expect red-shirt freshman Wade Kaiser to be an inside player, and that is probably a good bet. But Kaiser has the offensive skills to take it outside and could see some action at small forward. Although Kaiser lacks the bulk Tide coaches would like him to have (he's 195), he is very strong. More than size, though, Kaiser brings an athleticism rarely seen at the inside positions, and he is a very intelligent player.

The strong forward and center positions are practically interchangeable in Alabama's scheme. There is little question that one of the two inside players will be Jason Caffey, the 6-8, 245-pound junior who was the SEC's second-leading rebounder last year. Caffey was the only Tider to start every game last year and he averaged 14.5 points and 8.7 rebounds per game. Caffey is strong and runs well, which helps make him an exceptional threat. Late last year he suffered a stress fracture in his leg which hampered him, but he should be full speed this winter.

Most expect the inside position alongside Caffey to go to either sophomore Roy Rogers (6-9, 212) or true freshman Antonio McDyess (6-9, 220).

Rogers suffered a season-ending knee injury last year which limited him to only 14 games. He started six games prior to the injury and averaged 2.5 points and 2.3 rebounds per game. Bama had counted on Rogers for a lot of playing time in 1993, in great part because of his shot-blocking ability. In 1992, Robert Horry blocked 121 shots, an Alabama record. Last year, Alabama's entire team blocked 120 shots. This year Hobbs is hopeful Rogers can add the shot-blocking factor to Alabama's defense. Beyond that aspect of his game, Rogers is a sound defensive player and has a very effective jump hook.

Many in the Tide camp are holding their breath, hoping that McDyess can be as good as advertised and as good as reports coming out of Alabama pickup games. That would be very good. However, Hobbs is not going to put pressure on the freshman. The Bama coach notes that McDyess should be a very good player in time because of his knowledge of the game, his strength, his attitude and effort, and his natural skills, but cautions that patience will be used with the freshman.

NCAA rules mandate the beginning of practice as November 1. Two exhibition games are permitted in November and Alabama will play Team Bulgaria on November 16 and Spirit Express on November 22. The season opens for real December 1 when Bama hosts Tennessee-Chattanooga.

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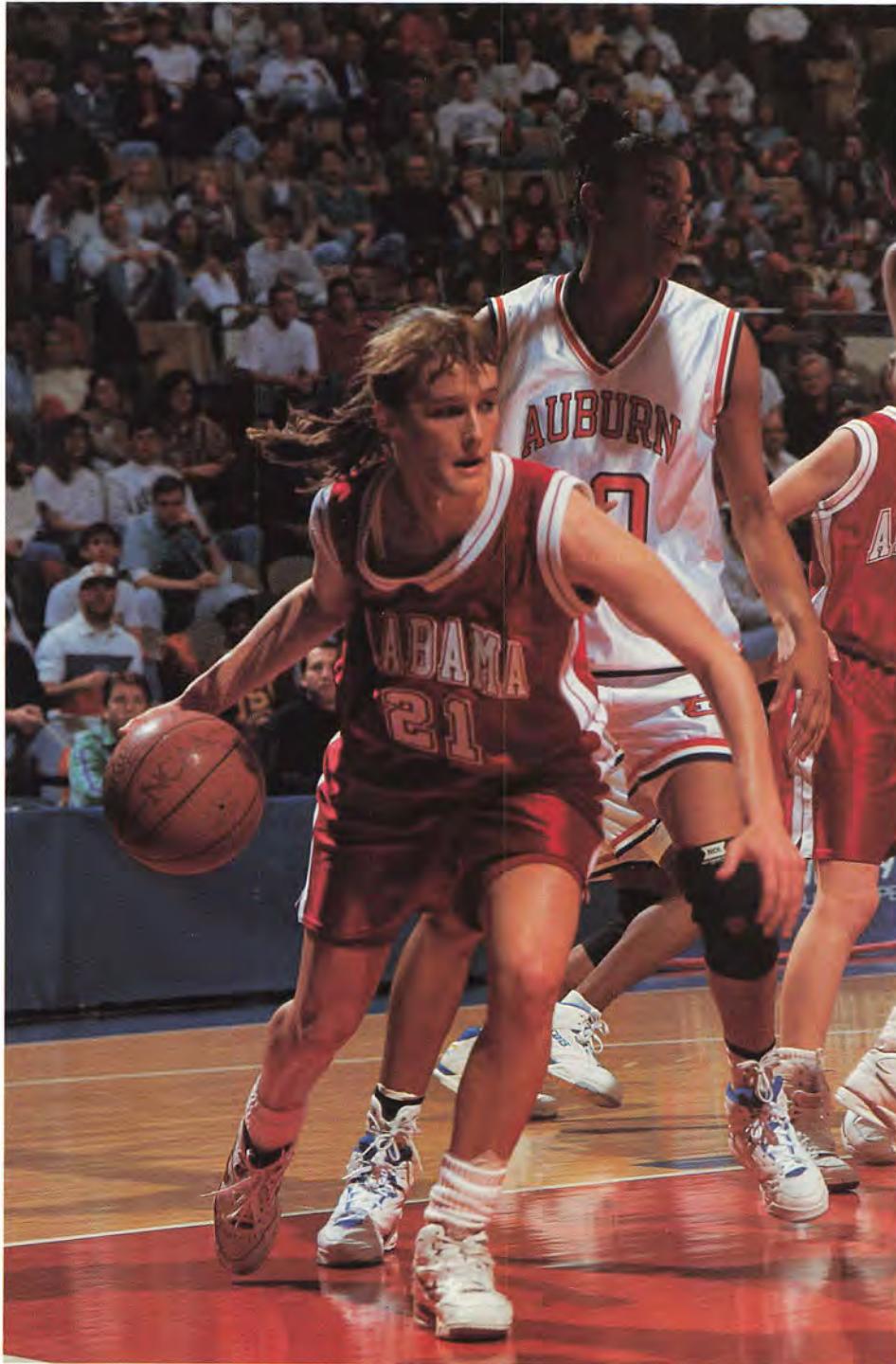
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Tide Works To Improve Each Year

by Donna Fromme

Moody credits success to players, and Bama seems to have them this year



Betsy Harris, a senior guard, returns for her fourth season with the Crimson Tide women's basketball team. Last year she was a record-setting three-point shooter. Although Harris departs following this season, she is the only senior in Bama's projected starting lineup.

Barry Fikes Photo

Hollywood could never produce a more compelling scene than the one inside the locker room following the Alabama women's basketball team's last-second overtime loss to North Carolina in the second round of the 1993 NCAA Tournament.

The Alabama players, only minutes after tough competition on the unfriendly opposition court, buried their heads and wept. For perhaps the only time in his life, Tide Head Coach Rick Moody was at a loss for words as he watched his team in despair. He knew no words were necessary. His players knew what they had done, what they had missed, how close they had come, and how far they had come.

And he also knew that Alabama's valiant quest for a berth in the Sweet 16 had ended in the unlikeliest and unkindest of ways. The Tide had finished a wonderful season, a 22-9 record and ranked 25th in the nation. But it was a bitter finish.

"We're not playing horseshoes," Moody said later. "Leaners don't count. You're either in or you're out, and moral victories are not relevant. So, for the second straight year, we were in the round of 32. You use that as motivation to achieve a higher level."

On paper, Moody looks to start out on a higher level as he prepares his Tide for the 1993-94 season. Alabama returns 11 of 13 players from last year, and in that group are four full-time starters and another who started in half the games in 1993. And it's that edge Moody is hoping will help him when Alabama opens its season on November 24, three and a half weeks after it has been allowed to take to the practice court.

"Because of the NCAA restrictions on practice time, I hope—and I think—that we are going to be much further along than we were at this time last year. Last year we were depending on some talented, but very inexperienced, players to perform at a high level against a ridiculously tough schedule, and that's a little bit unrealistic."

"As a matter of fact, I vividly recollect doing the very best that I could to inform people that we would not be a good basketball team early in the season, but would eventually improve to the point where we could compete on the highest of levels. And that's basically the way the season went last year."

Indeed, last year's Crimson Tide season looked at times as if it had been scripted by the writers of an "Indiana Jones" episode. Just when it seemed safe to step out on a basketball court, boulders seemed to be rolling recklessly after the Tide, and each step to dodge the impending doom turned ever more treacherous. Game two of the season found Alabama on the road against traditional powerhouse and former national champion Louisiana Tech. In game three, the Tide hosted Vanderbilt, the preseason number one team in the nation. In fact, in Alabama's first eight games last season, four were against teams that would make the NCAA Tournament.

But making excuses is not a Moody trait. He believes that each edition of the

Crimson Tide (he's sending out his fifth this year) should be better than the one before. And his 1994 squad is no exception.

"Every year since I was hired, I've genuinely felt each year we would do everything we could possibly do to take our program to the next level," Moody said. "We have seen a steady and sustained growth pattern. The primary factor for this is having the kind of athletes, the kind of basketball players, who can play on a high enough level that we can compete for championships. A second factor is that those same players gain the necessary experience so that when they are placed in that highly competitive situation that they are able to respond in a positive way."

"It's not coaches or coaches' philosophies

or systems that win. It's players executing the system that will win games and championships. I do believe that we have better talent from top to bottom than we've ever had."

Powering the Tide's better class of talent is its starting lineup, which basically has no weak link. Niesa Johnson, a preseason All-America, returns for her junior season at guard. She powered Alabama's offense last season with her 16.1 points a game. Johnson led the Southeastern Conference in both steals (3.1 per game) and assists (5.4) and was good for 5.4 rebounds an outing.

Joining her at guard is the SEC's leading long-range shooter, senior guard Betsy

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Harris. Harris averaged 12.5 points per game and set SEC records in three-point shooting last year. Madonna Thompson shared point guard duties with Melissa Del-Valle last season, getting the starting nod 13 times and averaging 6.9 points per game. And Thompson, a junior, was also a 17-game starter her freshman season in 1992.

Yolanda Watkins and Marlene Stevenson round out the starting lineup. Watkins had a terrific freshman season, capped by scoring 29 points and pulling down 12 rebounds against North Carolina in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. She was a unanimous choice for Freshman All-SEC and was second team all-conference as she averaged 14.8 points and a team-leading 8.7 rebounds per game. And she tied former men's team star, Robert Horry, with a Coleman Coliseum record seven blocked shots in one game. In only her second collegiate game she set a women's school record by hitting 13 of 13 free throws against Louisiana Tech.

Stevenson, a junior, averaged 9.5 points and 7.4 rebounds per game in Alabama's three-guard, double-post offensive set.

Once the opening whistle blows, Alabama's women's basketball team is full speed ahead. For that reason, bench strength is critical to success. Moody has to reload the floor often, and is able to do so without an appreciable drop in talent. The Tide's returning letter-winners all had substantial playing time last year, and several of them earned occasional starting assignments.

Top returnees are forwards Sharrona Alexander, Carla Koonce, Sarah Smith, and Shondra Fuller and guards Camillia Crenshaw and Aycan Yeniley.

Moody has added three newcomers to his squad, two of those junior college transfers.



Rick Moody

Niesa Johnson

Yolanda Watkins

Monique Walls, a junior guard/forward from Vincennes University in Indiana, led the nation in junior college scoring with her average of 25.8 points per game and was a junior college All-America and her region's Player of the Year the past two seasons. Consuelo Daniels transferred from Connors (Oklahoma) State College where she averaged 14.5 points and 8.0 rebounds in two seasons.

The Tide's lone freshman is Leah Monteith of Centre, who was named "Miss Basketball" in Alabama last year. She averaged 22 points, 6.0 rebounds and 4.0 steals in leading her team to the state championship.

These additions fit perfectly into the Moody style, one that has set school records with back-to-back 20-win seasons, back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances, and back-to-back titles of leading the nation in three-point seasons.

"I don't anticipate any philosophical changes," Moody said. "As a matter of fact, we have tried to recruit only those players who can enhance the system we have in place. I believe the one key statistic that we

must improve on is our opponents' field goal percentage, which I believe will make us a more complete basketball team."

Alabama plays two home exhibition games in November, a November 17 date with Bulgaria Levski-totol and a November 24 contest against Athletes In Action. Regular season play begins in Ames, Iowa, at the Iowa State Cyclone Classic against Eastern Washington November 26 with the Tide playing either host Iowa State or Troy State the second night. Other tournament play this year includes Bama's own Shoney's Inn Classic December 3-4 and the Central Florida Holiday Classic, a three-game tournament with nine teams, December 29-31.

The Shoney's Classic in Coleman Coliseum includes Coppin State, coached by former Tide Assistant Coach Tori Harrison, as well as Grambling and Tennessee State. Alabama will open in the Central Florida tournament against East Carolina, but among the teams in the tournament is North Carolina, making possible a rematch of the dramatic NCAA Tournament game that ended Alabama's season last year.

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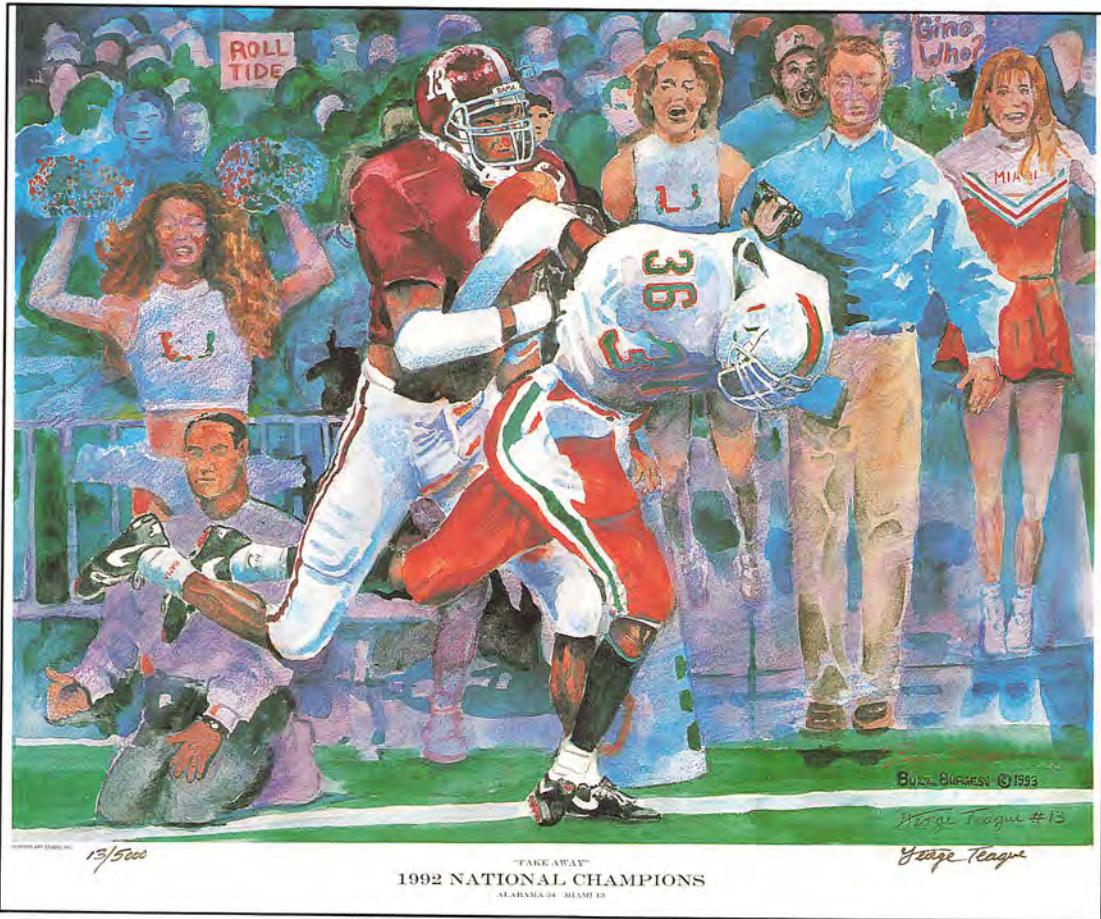
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Football Prospects:

Skill Position Players Abound In State

by Chass Horton

Here is a look at the backs and wide receivers listed among top prospects

One of the debates of college football each year is where the best football is played. Is it in the Big Ten? The Pac-10? The Southeastern Conference? One ingredient that seems to be a part of the very best teams is speed, and perhaps more than anywhere else the SEC has an abundance of fast football players. And in order to stay competitive, a team must find and recruit fast football players. While speed is important at almost every position, it is most noticeable among the skill position players, offensive and defensive backs and wide receivers.

It seems reasonable that Alabama will be searching for those skill position players in this recruiting season. Alabama loses a couple of seniors in the secondary, a wide receiver and a running back from this year's team, and there's always room for a quarterback. Beyond that, top skill position players don't come along every year, and the best teams get them while they can.

Although signing date is not until February 2, there's already growing interest in the top prospects in Alabama because there appear to be so many of them this year. Additionally, players are making unofficial visits to games and college coaches have been able to watch high school games, so followers of recruiting become aware of prospects.

As we always point out, the following is not necessarily a list of those being recruited by Alabama or of players who are considering Alabama. There are certainly some here who will be offered scholarships by the Crimson Tide, just as it is very likely that there are players not generally regarded as top prospects by the so-called recruiting experts who are considered prospects by college coaches. This information comes from various recruiting services and newspaper rankings. These best-known high school prep stars in Alabama are listed alphabetically.

Thomas Banks is a 5-10, 175-pound running back and strong safety for Coach Ricky Thomas at West Jefferson in Quinton. Banks led his team as a junior with 24 touchdowns and rushed for over 2,400 yards, earning first team all-



Fred Beasley



DeAnthony Hall



Steven Harris

state. He had over 2,200 yards and 19 touchdowns as a sophomore. He is a good student. Banks lists Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, Tennessee and Florida State as schools he is considering.

The best-known high school football player in Alabama, and one of the most publicized in the nation, is Fred Beasley, a 6-2, 195-pound running back for Coach Spence McCracken at Robert E. Lee of Montgomery. He is widely considered the best player on Lee's top-ranked team, a team he has led to back-to-back 6A state championships. A three-year starter, he has rushed for over 3,300 yards and 46 touchdowns prior to this season. He has excellent speed and strength. Although he suffered an ankle injury early this year and missed a couple of games, he is still drawing attention from all the major colleges. Beasley is a complete football player. When the game is on the line, he also plays linebacker. Although a recent report in the *Tuscaloosa News* said Beasley had said his favorite team was Auburn, that assessment actually came from one of the assistant coaches at Lee. He is a solid student who is expected to qualify and he lists Alabama, Auburn, FSU, Georgia and Georgia Tech.

Nakia Eason, 5-11, 175, is a defensive back for Coach Carroll Cox at Bessemer Jess Lanier. He came into the season with 12 career interceptions and midway through the season had run that number to 17. There is some question about Eason's academic standing, but none about his athletic ability. In fact, he has gotten some work at running back this year. He lists Alabama, Auburn, Tennessee, and Ole Miss.

Kevin Gentle is a 6-1, 180-pound kicking specialist for Coach Phil Lazenby at Guntersville. Although he also starts in the secondary, it is his kicking ability that has drawn the most attention. He has kicked field goals of 51 and 59 yards this year and has had only five kickoffs returned in the

first six games. He was averaging 46.7 yards per punt. He is academically qualified and lists Alabama, Auburn, Georgia Tech, North Carolina State and Georgia.

Charles Goodson, a 6-1, 220-pound defensive back for Coach Rodney Bivens at Anniston, earned all-star honors as a junior as he recorded over 60 tackles and turned in seven pass interceptions. He is fast and strong and a solid student and has been linked with Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina.

DeAnthony Hall is one of several top prospects for Coach Howard Busby at powerful Tuscaloosa Central. He's a 5-11, 185-pound quarterback and defensive back who was formerly a receiver and could also be a running back. He had four interceptions midway through the season. Hall, a four-year starter in football, has also lettered in basketball and he is an exceptional baseball player. He is a solid student who lists Alabama among the schools he is considering.

Ed Harris, 5-10, 164, is considered one of the state's top athletes. He has played quarterback, wingback, wide receiver and running back for Coach Wes Simpson at Moody, but he is best known as a fine defensive back. Through the first seven games this year he had 1,300 all-purpose yards and 13 touchdowns on offense. He lists Alabama, Auburn, Brigham Young, Tennessee and Georgia.

If Fred Beasley is not the top prospect in the state, then Steven Harris may be. He is the number one prospect by some, including the prestigious *Tuscaloosa News* Sweet 16 list, and one recruiting service calls him the best athlete in the South. Harris is a 6-2, 220-pound quarterback and linebacker (he may be a defensive back in college) who has started for Coach Rickey Johnson at Hazlewood for four years, and is a part of three of the five consecutive 2A state titles Hazlewood has won. He was all-state as a junior. He is academically eligible and



Jeremy Jones



Kenya Jones



Montoya Madden

many believe he is committed to Alabama, which would be a continuation of a pipeline from Hazlewood to Bama.

Jedarius Isaac is a 6-1, 175-pound quarterback for Coach Carroll Cox at Bessemer Jess Lanier. He is considered one of the

state's top prospects, but not as a quarterback. Isaac, an exceptional athlete, is projected as a college defensive back and he's considering all SEC schools.

Jeremy Jones is a running back, wide receiver and defensive back for Coach Rush Propst at Ashville and is a four-year starter. He had over 1,900 all-purpose yards and 19 touchdowns and also kicked five field goals as a junior. He was state 3A champion in the 200-meter dash and also plays baseball. He is a good student who lists Alabama, Auburn, Ole Miss, Vanderbilt and North Carolina State.

Kenya Jones is part of a wide open passing offensive team under former Tide wide receiver Joey Jones at Dora. Kenya, 6-0, 175, has 24 receptions for 490 yards and three touchdowns and has also returned two punts for touchdowns this year. Last year he caught 36 passes for 712 yards and five touchdowns and also had 315 yards rushing and returned two punts and one kickoff for a score. He is also a top basketball player. He must improve academically, but lists Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Miami and FSU.

Carl King is a 6-1, 230-pound fullback for Coach Jim Bixby at Geneva. He is a top runner and blocker. As a junior he rushed for over 700 yards and six touchdowns. His list includes Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, Mississippi State and FSU.

Another of the top prospects produced at Hazlewood is Montoya Madden, a 5-9, 205-pound running back for Coach Rickey Johnson. He was all-state as a junior and rushed for more than 2,000 yards. He is ranked among the nation's top "big back" prospects. Unfortunately, his coach said he was a little too big when the season started and being a few pounds overweight got him off to a slow start. Although he is on the border academically, he is being recruited by most top schools, including Alabama.

Freddy May is a 6-0, 206-pound running back for Coach Howard Busby at Tuscaloosa Central. He ran for over 1,200 yards and 14 touchdowns as a junior, but has had hamstring problems this season. Nevertheless, he averaged nearly five yards per carry through his first five games (58 carries, 278 yards) and averaged about 100 yards per game in all-purpose yardage. He is not academically qualified and may be headed to Coffeyville Junior College in Kansas.

William Mayes is a 6-3, 228-pound fullback for Coach Ronald Cheatham at Wenonah in Birmingham. He is rated one of the state's top 20 prospects by The Birmingham News.

Norman Nero, 6-3, 190, is a running back and defensive back for Coach Melvin Middleton at Escambia County in Atmore. He is a three-year starter in both football

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Adam Russell

and basketball and is an excellent student. As a junior he gained over 800 yards and had nine touchdowns and had 42 tackles. He lists Alabama, Arkansas and Auburn.

Darrell Payne is one of the top quarterbacks in the state. The 6-0, 180-pounder has started for three years for Coach Lynn Elkins at Pinson Valley. As a junior he passed for 1,525 yards and 13 touchdowns and had thrown for over 3,500 yards and 26 scores in his career prior to this season. He had a five-touchdown performance in one game as a junior. He also plays defense and he has started on both the baseball and basketball teams the past two years. He is considering several SEC schools and FSU.

John David Phillips, 6-4, 240, is considered by many to be the top quarterback prospect in Alabama. He plays for Coach Rodney Bivens at Anniston. Although he was not his team's regular quarterback as a junior, he had an impressive performance in the state playoffs against Montgomery Lee, passing for 173 yards and a touchdown. He is a dropback passer. He started for three years in the secondary and also has lettered in baseball and basketball. The *Birmingham Post-Herald* rates Phillips the fifth best prospect in Alabama. He has qualified academically and lists Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, Clemson and North Carolina.

Dennis Riddle, 6-0, 195, is another of the prospects for Tuscaloosa Central. Rated the 15th best prospect in the state by the *Tuscaloosa News*, Riddle rushed for 643 yards (5.5 average) and nine touchdowns in his first five games this year. He was averaging 178.4 all-purpose yards per game. He has not yet qualified academically, but is considering Alabama, Tennessee, LSU, Georgia, Iowa and Syracuse.

Adam Russell, 6-2, 193, is the quarterback for Coach Joey Jones at Dora. Halfway through this year he had completed 61 of 102 passes for 1,206 yards and 11 touchdowns with only three interceptions. He completed over 53 per cent of his passes for over 4,000 yards and 42 touchdowns in his first two seasons as a starter and was all-state as a junior. He is an excellent student (3.8 grade point average) who is aca-

demically eligible and is considering Alabama, Auburn, FSU, Mississippi State and Tennessee.

Kenneth Scissum has been a two-year starter at running back and linebacker for Coach Raymond Farmer at Etowah in Attalla. He is 6-1, 196. He has played tight end and fullback, as well as tailback. Midway through the year he had 90 rushes for 498 yards and six touchdowns and eight pass receptions for 72 yards. He has passed the ACT. He lists Alabama, Auburn, Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi State and Ole Miss.

Jake Vest is a 6-2, 190-pound quarterback for Coach Perry Swindall at Daleville. He was all-state and *Montgomery Advertiser* 4A Player of the Year as a junior as he passed for 2,397 yards and 33 touchdowns. The *Birmingham News* rates him the fourth best prospect in the state. The left-hander led Daleville to the state title last year and one recruiting service lists him as one of the nation's top ten "run-pass" quarterbacks. He is an excellent student who lists Alabama, Auburn, Texas, Georgia and Arkansas.

While the above are the most widely-publicized skill position players in Alabama, there are always those not so well known who often end up as college stars. College coaches are certainly taking a look at these, too:

Kushon Anderson is a 6-2, 220-pound fullback for Coach Stanley Conner at LeFlore in Mobile. He has a reputation as a runner and blocker. Jeff Bazemore is being seen by a lot of scouts because he's the quarterback for Montgomery Lee. He's 5-11, 175. Curtis Brooks is a two-year starter on both offense and defense for Coach John Blackmon at Leroy. Brooks, 6-3, 210, was an all-state performer at defensive back as a junior with 94 tackles and eight interceptions.

Tony Buchalter, 5-11, 200, is a running back for Coach Perry Swindall at Daleville. Adrian Bullard, 6-2, 175, is an outstanding wide receiver and kick return man for Coach John Harper at Frisco City. Derek Caldwell, 6-4, 185, is a wide receiver for

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Kenneth Scissum



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Coach Roland Jones at Brantley.

Shedrick Dixon is a 6-0, 180-pound wide receiver for Coach Wayne Trawick at Phenix City Central. Tony Gibbs is a 6-2, 190-pound defensive back and quarterback for Coach John Harper at Frisco City. He had over 1,000 yards of passing offense as a junior and earned all-state honors.

While Kenya Jones and Adam Russell have drawn most of the attention for Coach Joey Jones' Dora team, Lahitia Grant, a 6-1, 182-pound wide receiver has also been a big play man. He's had 28 catches for 580 yards and five touchdowns

and returned three punts for touchdowns in the first half of the season. And he's his school's president and an excellent student.

Keith Grantham is a 6-3, 185-pound quarterback for defending 3A state champion Elba High School. He led Coach Mack Wood's team to the title despite suffering a broken passing hand in the first round of the playoffs.

Charles Johnson is a 6-2, 190-pound all-purpose player for Coach Benjamin Harris at Mobile Blount. He has played quarterback, defensive back and receiver. Sherman McLester is a 5-10 running back for Coach

Rodney Bivens at Anniston.

Rodney Melton, 6-1, 185, is a running back for Coach John Niblett at Phenix City Glenwood. He rushed for over 4,000 yards in his first three seasons, including an astounding 34 touchdowns as a junior. Brent Pettus, 6-3, 180, is a very gifted all-around athlete who is the quarterback for Coach Bobby Moore's Tuscaloosa County team.

Jerel Posey, 6-0, 180, is a quarterback and defensive back for Pell City. He is a four-year starter who was all-state as a junior. He has also started the past three years in basketball. Gerald Pruitt is also a four-year starter, a 6-1, 195-pound strong safety for Coach Benjamin Harris at Blount.

Tony Richardson is a 5-10, 175-pound running back for Coach Bobby Devane at Dothan. Lamont Shaw, 5-10, 170, is a defensive back for Coach Phillip Baker at Dadeville. Jeremy Slimp, 5-9, 175, is a running back for Coach Bob Finley at Birmingham Berry.

Coleman Smith, 6-2, 170, is a wide receiver for Coach Eddie Tyler at Daphne. Julius Terrell is a 6-1, 170-pound defensive back for Coach Mike Shipp of Gadsden Emma Sansom. Demetrick Thomas is an all-around athlete for Coach Tony Motley at Munford.

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Bama Looks For Blue Chippers

by Kirk McNair

Early period may not have as many signees this year; Tide searching nationwide

This year's Alabama men's basketball team includes only two seniors, and neither of them is really projected as a starter this season. The two, junior college transfers Walter Pitts and Shon Peck-Love, are both expected to be top back-ups this year. That means this is not a critical recruiting year for Coach David Hobbs, but, as anyone who follows the sport knows, it doesn't do to miss a year. Nevertheless, with a team that will apparently be very strong next year, Hobbs and his staff can afford to be very selective in recruiting. And a look at the national scene shows that Alabama is listed with some of the nation's most highly-regarded players.

The week-long early signing period for most sports other than football begins November 10. Nationally, it is expected that fewer men's basketball players will sign in the early period this year than over the past few years because of a change in NCAA regulations. Prospects cannot make an official campus visit this year until they have attained a passing score on one of the national standardized tests. (Prospects can sign without making a passing score, but few sign without having made official visits.) Approximately 80 to 85 per cent of the nation's top prospects have signed in the early period in the past, and that number is expected to drop dramatically this year.

How many will Hobbs sign, and how many will sign in the early signing period? It would seem that Alabama would try to sign two or possibly three (national statistics show that college basketball teams lose an average of one player per year before his final year of eligibility, players either giving up the sport, going professional, suffering career-ending injuries, or failing to maintain academic eligibility). If Bama gets one or more signees in the early period that would be very good this year.

Continuing an unfortunate trend of recent years, it does not appear to be a year in which there are many (if any) top prospects in the state of Alabama. While the national recruiting services show that situation will end next year with several top juniors, it appears Alabama's recruiting efforts are once again outside the state.

About the only Alabama high school

preppers making any recruiting lists are 6-3 guard Rod Willie of Huntsville Lee, 6-11, 240-pound center Todd Campbell of Greenville, 6-5 forwards Billy Adams of Birmingham John Carroll and Otis Drury of Dothan, and 6-4 wing guards Tom Peters of Birmingham Ramsay and Mike Floyd of Mobile, and Bama is not expected to offer scholarships to any of them in the early signing period. The late signing period begins in March.

Many believe Alabama has been a leader for two point guards considered to be the two top men at their position in the nation. At one time there were rumors that Johnny Miller, a 6-1, 175-pounder, had already committed to Alabama. Miller was something of an unknown a year ago, playing for relatively small Solanco High School in Quarryville, Pennsylvania. But everyone knows him now.

Miller, who was scheduled to visit Alabama for Homecoming Weekend October 30, averaged 27 points, 5.6 assists and 3.6 steals for Coach Don Fisher as a junior. As a sophomore he averaged 18 points and 8.5 assists, but last year the coach said he needed Miller to do more shooting and less passing since he was the only returning starter. And his last year statistics might have been better had he not suffered a broken hand midway through the year. Even so, he came back in his first game with a cast on and scored 41 points.

Miller is also thought to be considering Providence, coached by former Bama assistant Rick Barnes. One of the hot rumors making the rounds is that Miller called all the schools recruiting him to say he had decided on Alabama and Barnes blitzed the Miller household with a negative recruiting pitch against the school where he once worked. Miller's coach would neither confirm nor deny the rumor, but said he wanted to praise Tide Head Coach David Hobbs and Assistant Coach Greg Polinsky for the way in which they had recruited his star player.

Another rumor connected to the supposed Miller commitment reached from Minnesota to North Carolina. Reportedly, Alabama was the leader for Ishua Benjamin, a 6-4 point guard at Concord, North Carolina. However, when Miller called Minnesota to tell that staff of his decision to go to Alabama, the Minnesota coaches immediately called Benjamin to tell him, and Bama supposedly fell out of favor with Benjamin. In addition to Minnesota, he is also considering Ohio State, Georgetown, and several ACC

schools.

Also in the Carolinas, 6-8, 220-pound power forward Lamont Boozer of Rock Hill, South Carolina, lists Alabama, Wake Forest, South Carolina and Virginia Tech as his current final four, but he continues to consider other schools and is not planning to sign in the early period.

Nicky Davis, a 6-9, 190-pound forward at Northeast of Richland, South Carolina, was listed with Alabama in some early recruiting reports, as was Mark Himes, a 6-4, 195-pound shooting guard at Columbia Irmo.

Demarko Johnson, 6-8, 230, is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, but is playing at Fork Union Military in Virginia. He has trimmed about 20 pounds from his frame in the past year and is now drawing attention from a number of top schools, including Alabama.

The big name in Virginia this year was Allen Iverson of Bethel High School in Hampton. However, Iverson has very serious legal problems and is now in prison. But his former teammate, 6-1 senior wing guard Tony Rutland, is a top prospect who includes Alabama among the schools he is considering. Last year he averaged 22 points, 4.5 assists and 7 rebounds per game and had 30 points in the state championship game.

Also in Virginia, Alabama is listed with two players on what is considered the best prep team in the nation, Oak Hill in Mouth of Wilson. Both Tavares Johnson, 6-6, and Alex Sanders, 6-8, include the Tide among schools they are considering.

Last year Alabama's two high school signees were both from Mississippi (Antonio McDyess and Eric Washington), and Mississippi has top prospects once again this year. Not surprisingly, Alabama is linked with several of them.

The top prospect in Mississippi is Jerod Ward, a 6-8, 205-pound forward from Clinton. He is considered by some to be among the nation's top dozen prospects. Last year he averaged 30 points, 15 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 6.1 blocked shots per game and led his team to the state 5A championship. His coach, Joel Boone, said that Ward had accepted 18 in-home visits by college coaches and that it could be a long recruiting process since Ward will wait until spring to sign. But the coach said he thought Ward might be down to four schools: Alabama, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Tennessee. His coach said Ward was not yet academically qualified, but that he is a good student and will qualify easily.

Pitching Looks Like A Strong Point

by Rush Garner

Bama will rely on veterans and newcomers to make improvement in 1994

As any coach will tell you, you only learn so much from off-season drills. But if the recently-completed fall training session was any indication, University of Alabama Baseball Coach Barry Shollenberger hopes spring comes soon. "You don't like to say this, but I like what I saw," he said. "I hate to get too excited about intrasquad practices because it's not the same as a game, but we really looked good at every position and the pitching should be there."

In college baseball, the equivalent of professional baseball's spring training is a month of fall drills. The Tide has completed that fall work of practice and intrasquad games and will begin its 1994 campaign in February.

Even though Alabama finished the 1993 campaign two games above .500 (27-25), the Southeastern Conference record of 9-15 left plenty of room for improvement.

Alabama will attack the 1994 season with a blend of experienced players and talented



Alabama Head Coach Barry Shollenberger hopes to be happy about Bama's 1994 baseball team.

newcomers. Fortunately, there is both in the most important area of a baseball team at any level: pitching.

If the second half of last year is any indication, pitching should be a strong point for Bama in 1994. This year's staff has plenty of promise despite losing one of last year's most dependable starters to professional baseball. Al Drumheller elected to pass up his final year of eligibility to play for pay. The Tide will miss not only his 98 innings pitched and nine victories, but also his bat. He hit .323 with eight home runs and 38 runs batted in.

However, back from last year's team are three reliable starters: Senior right-handers Mike McDonald and Bernie Bellard and junior right-hander Steve Shoemaker. McDonald had a 3.64 earned run average in 1993. Bellard came on strong late in the season, including a complete game six-strikeout five-hitter in the Tide's final game, a 10-1 win over Arkansas. Bellard is also capable at the plate, the designated hitter for Bama part of last season. Shoemaker also developed into one of the staff's best as he recorded a win over Auburn down the stretch, pitching a complete game four-hit shutout and striking out eight. Senior right-hander Derius Lewis will also be relied upon in the starting rotation.

The depth in the pitching corps pleases Shollenberger. "We feel like we have a lot of experience in our rotation," he said. "But the key is depth, because anything can happen during a season and if you don't have eight or nine quality guys, then it's really going to show down the stretch. Those other guys aren't just back-ups. They have to be ready to step in and pitch effectively."

Rounding out what should be an above-average staff of all right-handers are senior Jerry Stubbs, junior Neal Lamb, sophomores Joel Colgrove and John Collins, and freshman Pete Demorejon.

Usually during fall drills there are a few surprises, and this year was no exception. Senior Chad Elder, who sat out last year with arm problems, was almost unhittable this fall. During drills he lit up the radar gun and showed no ill effects from his layoff. There is also a newcomer, freshman Chris Eilers, who had an exceptional fall and could break into the rotation. "Chris has the best stuff of any young pitcher I have seen in a while," Shollenberger said.

Even though last year's team was not exceptionally successful, it has suffered significant losses. Gone from 1993 are the likes of second baseman Frank Menechino, first baseman Chris Smalley, third baseman Jerry Shelton, and outfielder Brad Oliver. "When a baseball team loses as many players as we lost, the goal is to rebuild up the middle," Shollenberger said. "We feel that is where our experience lies."

In virtually every sport a team must be consistent defensively to be successful. However, Shollenberger also will try to improve Alabama's offensive production this year. Last year Bama finished last in the SEC in hitting, a team batting average of only .234 in league games.

Anchoring the defense for the '94 squad will be a platoon at catcher, senior Gino Saunders and junior Alan Hill. "Both of these guys can play," Shollenberger said. "As far as I'm concerned, I have two number ones." Both Saunders and Hill are right-handed batters noted more for defensive ability than offensive production (a combined 25 runs batted in last year).

The middle infielders, shortstop and second base, are the defensive key. Success in this area helped Bama to rank third in the league in fielding last year. Sophomore Brett Taft returns at shortstop, while senior Eddie Genorelli came out of fall drills as the heir-apparent second-baseman. Although defense is the primary function of the middle infielders, Taft led last year's team in runs batted in in SEC games with 13.

The fourth and final cog in the up-the-middle defense is center field. Senior Anthony Box moves in to replace Oliver. "Anthony is our best all-around outfielder, and we have adequate depth at the position with Todd Nodine," Shollenberger said. Nodine, a sophomore, is an exceptional defensive player.

The rest of the defense should be strong. Completing the outfield, senior Brad Daggett returns in left; and although an injury limited him in fall practice, newcomer Chris Wood looks like a solid right-fielder. His left-handed bat is also expected to help in a lineup that is predominantly right-handed. Freshman Shane Watts also impressed the coaching staff with his work in the outfield in the fall, while walk-on Chris Milewski, whose twin brother Corey is a second-baseman for the Tide, is an infielder who was one of the top hitters in fall practice. Junior college transfer Robbie Hayduck is a top-flight defensive player who can play any of the infield positions. "I think Robbie will help with his defensive ability and flexibility," Shollenberger said.

At first base, newcomer Scott Weil and junior Jason Jordan, are competing for playing time, while at third base freshman Joe Caruso appears to have moved into the picture along with junior Danny Jenkins.

As Bama looks for improvement in 1994, the schedule-maker hasn't been too kind. Alabama's first two SEC series will be on the road, at powerful Florida and South Carolina. "I hate to play the first six conference games on the road, but we'll find out what we have real fast," Shollenberger said. "You might as well get them out of the way. I've never been one to cry over schedules, but it's tough for a young team to gain confidence if you start out slow."

Schedules Of Alabama's 1993 Football Opponents

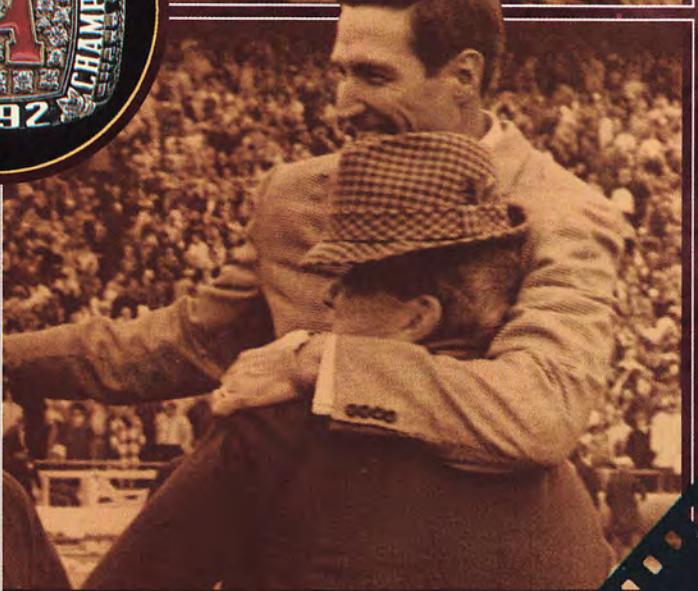
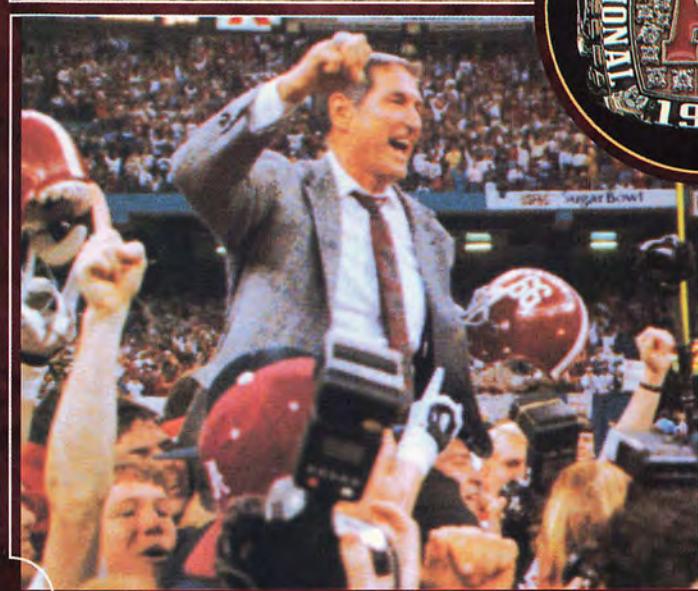
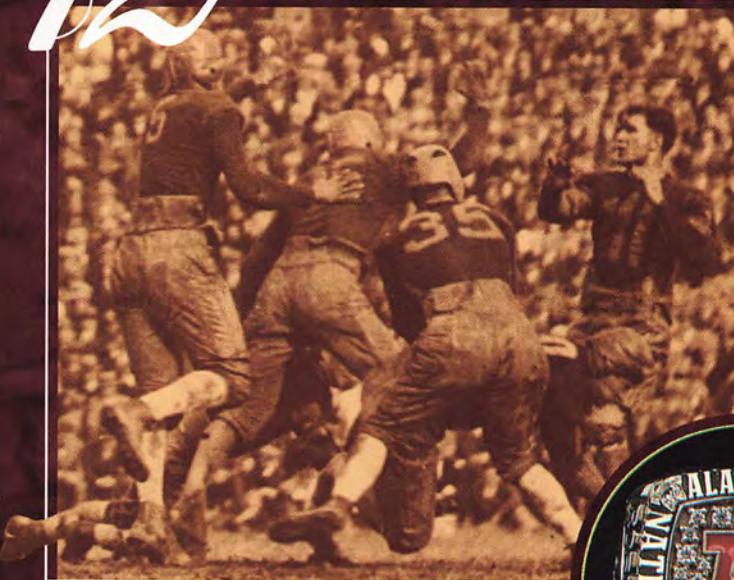
Team	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27
TULANE Green Wave New Orleans, La.	④ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 17-31	④ ALABAMA 0-34	④ Rice William & Mary 10-0	Mississippi 10-36	Navy 27-25	Southwest Louisiana 15-36	④ TCU 7-14	④ Boston College	④ Southern Miss	North Carolina	④ LSU	Dec. 4 ④ Hawaii	
VANDERBILT Commodores Nashville, Tenn.	④ Wake Forest 27-12	④ ALABAMA 6-17	④ Ole Miss 7-49	Auburn 10-14	Cincinnati 17-7	Georgia 3-41	④ South Carolina 0-22	Kentucky	Navy	④ Florida	④ Tennessee	④ LSU	
ARKANSAS Razorbacks Fayetteville, Ark.	④ SMU 10-6	South Carolina 18-17	④ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 3-43	Memphis St. 0-6	④ Georgia 20-10	Tennessee ④ Ole Miss (Jackson) 0-19	Auburn	Mississippi State Little Rock 14-28	Mississippi State Little Rock 14-28	Tulsa		④ LSU	
LOUISIANA TECH Bulldogs Ruston, La.	④ Tennessee 0-50		④ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 3-36	Arkansas State 17-3	④ Georgia 28-31	④ San Jose State 6-31	Northern Illinois	Nevada- Las Vegas	④ Utah State	Central Florida	④ Southwest Louisiana		
SOUTH CAROLINA Gamecocks Columbia, S.C.	④ Georgia 23-21	④ Arkansas 17-18	④ Louisiana Tech 34-3	Sept. 23 Kentucky 17-21	④ ALABAMA 6-17	④ East Carolina 27-3	④ Mississippi State 0-23	④ Vanderbilt 22-0	④ Tennessee	Florida	Clemson		
TENNESSEE Volunteers Knoxville, Tenn.	Louisiana Tech 50-0	Georgia 38-6	④ Florida 34-41	LSU 42-20	Duke 52-19	Arkansas ④ Little Rock 28-14	④ Arkansas (Birmingham) 17-17	South Carolina	Louisville	④ Kentucky	Vanderbilt		
OLE MISS Rebels Oxford, Miss.	Sept. 2 ④ Auburn 12-16	Chattanooga 40-7	Vanderbilt 49-7	Georgia 31-14	④ Kentucky 0-21	Arkansas ④ (Jackson) 19-0	④ ALABAMA 14-19	④ LSU	④ Memphis State	Northern Illinois	④ Mississippi State		
SOUTHERN MISS Golden Eagles Hattiesburg, Miss.	Pittsburgh 10-14	Northeast Louisiana 44-37	④ Auburn 24-35	Southwestern Louisiana 7-13	④ Georgia 24-54	④ Louisville 27-35	④ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 2-30 p.m.	Tulane	④ Memphis State	④ Tulsa			
LSU Fighting Tigers Baton Rouge, La.	④ Texas A&M 0-24	④ Mississippi State 18-16	Auburn 34-10	④ Tennessee 20-42	Utah State 38-17	Florida 3-58	④ Kentucky 17-35	Ole Miss	④ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) TBA	Tulane	Arkansas		
MISSISSIPPI STATE Bulldogs Starkville, Miss.	Memphis State 35-45	LSU 16-18	④ Tulane 36-10	④ Florida 24-38	④ Auburn 17-31	South Carolina 23-0	Arkansas State 15-15	Kentucky	④ Arkansas ④ Little Rock TBA	④ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) TBA	Ole Miss		
AUBURN Tigers Auburn, Ala.	Sept. 2 Ole Miss 16-12	Samford 35-7	④ LSU 34-10	Southern Miss 35-24	④ Vanderbilt 14-10	Mississippi 31-17	Florida 38-35	④ Arkansas	New Mexico St.	④ Georgia	ALABAMA 1-0 p.m. (radio only)		

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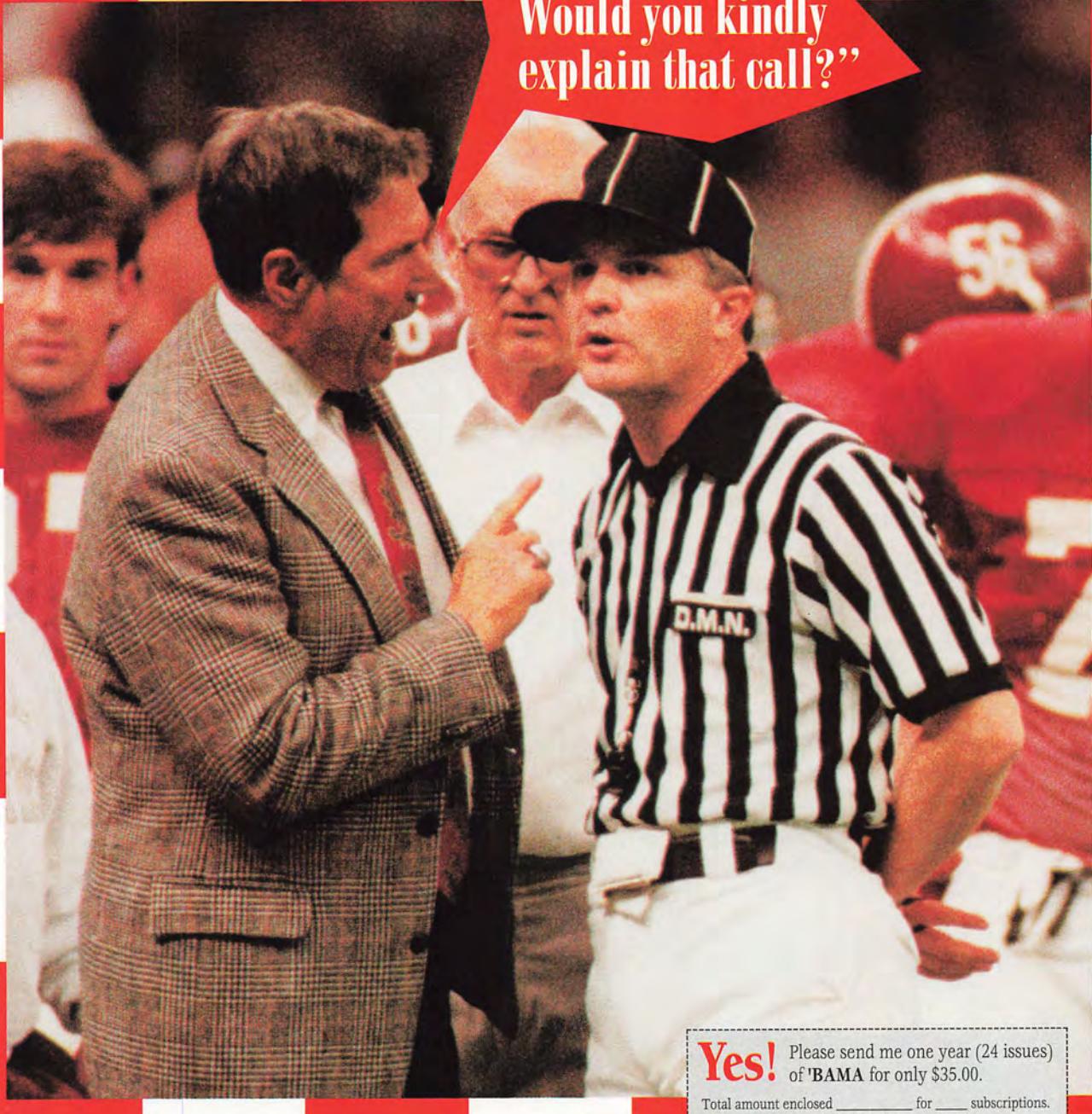
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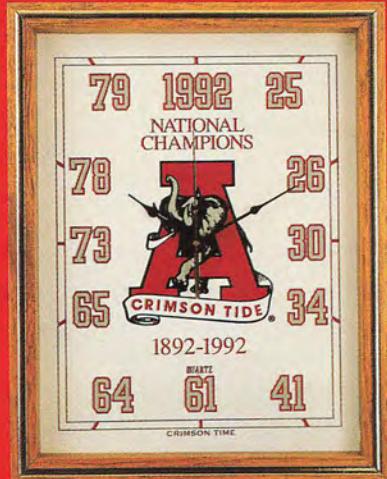
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